

# Taking Advice from Nahjul Balagha

Session One - Khutba No. 103

## Questions for Reflection

- 1) In the first section of the Khutba Imam (a) describes the world. Is it possible for the believer to be happy in the world?
- 2) What type of lessons can we take on a regular basis from the world?
- 3) Is a sleeping (inactive) believer better or an active believer?

# Agenda

- Correct perspective of the world
- Joy and grief in this world
- Balance in emotions
- Knowing your worth
- Being left to yourself
- A believer in times of conflict

# Correct perspective of the world

## Understand its transiency

Blessed is the man who always kept the life after death in his view, who remembered the Day of Judgment through all his deeds, who led a contented life and who was happy with the lot that Allah had destined for him. (Hadith 44 Nahjul Balagha)

## Abstain from its deceptive attractions

The world is like a serpent, so soft to touch, but so full of lethal poison. Unwise people are allured by it and drawn towards it, and wise men avoid it and keep away from its poisonous effects. (Hadith 118, Nahjul Balagha)

## Benefit from it for the Hereafter

Certainly, this world is a house of truth for those who look into it carefully, an abode of peace and rest for those who understand its ways and moods and it is the best working ground for those who want to procure rewards for life in the Hereafter . ( Hadith 130, Nahjul Balagha)

# Joy and Grief in this world

A man feels very happy if he achieves a thing without understanding that it would have ultimately come to him and he would not have missed it, and sometimes he feels sorry at not acquiring a thing which was not destined for him and which he could never have acquired . . .

If you attain worldly pomp and pleasures then let not your happiness increase along with every enhancement of such pleasure and if you lose any of these pleasures then do not feel sorry at the loss because you must only feel sorry at the loss of such things as will be of use to you in the next world.

(Letter 22, Nahjul Balagha)

# Balance in emotions

لِكَيْلَا تَأْسَوْا عَلَىٰ مَا فَاتَكُمْ وَلَا تَفْرَحُوا بِمَا آتَاكُمْ ۗ  
وَاللَّهُ لَا يُحِبُّ كُلَّ مُخْتَالٍ فَخُورٍ

So that you may not grieve for what has escaped you  
nor be exultant at what He has given you  
and Allah does not love any arrogant boaster

(Sura al-Hadid, 57:23)

# Knowing your worth

One who does not realize his own value is condemned to utter failure. (Every kind of complex, superiority or inferiority is harmful to man) (Hadith 148, Nahjul Balagha)

Failures are often the results of timidity and fears, disappointments are the results of shyness, hours of leisure pass away like summer- Clouds therefore, do not Waste opportunity of doing good.

(Hadith 20, Nahjul Balagha)

Value of each man depends upon the art and skill which he has attained. (Hadith 80, Nahjul Balagha)

# Being left to yourself

وَلَا تَكُونُوا كَالَّذِينَ نَسُوا اللَّهَ فَأَنْسَاهُمْ أَنْفُسَهُمْ ۗ  
أُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْفَاسِقُونَ

And be not like those who forsook Allah  
so He made them forsake their own souls  
these it is that are the transgressors.

(Al-Hashr, 59:19)

# **A believer in times of conflict**

During civil disturbance be like an adolescent camel who has neither a back strong enough for riding, nor udders for milking. (Hadith 1, Nahjul Balagha)

Adopt such an attitude that people do not attach any importance to you. They neither burden you with complicated affairs nor try to derive any advantage out of you.