

Taking Advice from Nahjul Balagha

Session Two - Khutba No. 108

Questions for Reflection

- 1) The first paragraph says that God is apparent to the hearts of people because of clear proofs. What are those clear proofs?
- 2) How is a person blind, deaf and dumb??
- 3) What points do you get from this Khutba about misguidance and virtue?

Agenda

- *Fitrat* of the human being
- Death of the heart
- *Ghaflat* (Heedlessness)
- Truth and Falsehood
- Co-operation
- آخر الزمان the last days

Fitrat of the Human Being

فَأَقِمْ وَجْهَكَ لِلدِّينِ حَنِيفًا ۖ فِطْرَتَ اللَّهِ الَّتِي فَطَرَ النَّاسَ عَلَيْهَا
ۚ لَا تَبْدِيلَ لِخَلْقِ اللَّهِ ۗ

ذَلِكَ الدِّينُ الْقَيِّمُ وَلَكِنَّ أَكْثَرَ النَّاسِ لَا يَعْلَمُونَ

Then set your face upright for religion in the right state
the nature made by Allah in which He has made men
there is no altering of Allah's creation
that is the right religion, but most people do not know.

(30:30)

Death of the heart

لَيْسَ بِمَيِّتٍ مَنْ مَاتَ وَ اسْتَرَاحَ إِنَّمَا الْمَيِّتُ مَيِّتُ الْأَحْيَاءِ

He is not dead who dies and is rested, the [real] dead one is the one who is dead from among the living ones.

Imam Ali (a)

They see the people of the world magnifying the death of the bodies, but they take more seriously the death of the hearts in their bodies.

Imam Ali (a)

Ghaflat (Heedlessness)

لَقَدْ كُنْتَ فِي غَفْلَةٍ مِنْ هَذَا
فَكَشَفْنَا عَنْكَ غِطَاءَكَ فَبَصَرُكَ الْيَوْمَ حَدِيدٌ

Certainly you were heedless of it but now We have removed from you your veil, so your sight today is sharp (50:22)

The intoxication of heedlessness and vanity is more harmful than the intoxication of alcohol.

Imam Ali (a)

Truth and Falsehood

An example of Haq and Batil from the Quran

Sura Ra'd, 13:17

Qualities of Batil

- false glitter
- loud and upfront
- temporary, fleeting
- shallow, worthless

Co-operation

وَتَعَاوَنُوا عَلَى الْبِرِّ وَالتَّقْوَىٰ ۖ وَلَا تَعَاوَنُوا عَلَى الْإِثْمِ وَالْعُدْوَانِ
ۚ وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ ۖ إِنَّ اللَّهَ شَدِيدُ الْعِقَابِ

help one another in goodness and piety

and do not help one another in sin and aggression

and be careful of (your duty to) Allah

surely Allah is severe in requiting (evil)

(5:2)

آخر الزمان - Signs of the last days

when people will

- treat the offering of Salaat lightly
- regard breach of trust as unimportant
- think that telling lies is ordinary
- sell religion for worldly benefits
- be heartless towards family members
- consider shedding blood as trivial
- regard oppressing others as a matter of pride
- openly indulge in adultery, defamation, and vices and not regard these actions as sins

From Biharul Anwar, quoted in Partial Ressurrection