

Taking Advice from Nahjul Balagha

Session Three - Khutba No. 111

Questions for Reflection

- 1) Why does Imam Ali (a) condemn the world so strongly? What message is he giving us?
- 2) Why is the human being so attracted to this world?
- 3) What are some weapons against the deception of the world that human beings can use?

Agenda

- Ornamentation
- Having hopes
- The world according to the Quran
- Attraction to the world
- Time
- Remembrance of death and the grave

زينة- Ornamentation

- 1) Difference between زينة and جمال
- 2) Types of زينة:
 - a) محسوسي – perceived with the senses
 - b) معقولي – perceived with the mind

3) Not always condemned

Say: Who has prohibited the embellishment of Allah which He has brought forth for His servants and the good provisions? Say: These are for the believers in the life of this world, purely (theirs) on the resurrection day; thus do We make the communications clear for a people who know. (7:32)

Having hopes

1) Types of Hopes

Hope is a mercy for my Ummah. Had it not been for hope no mother would have breastfeed her child nor any planter plant a tree.

Holy Prophet (s)

Hope is a deceiver, a cheater, harmful. **Imam Ali (a)**

2) Long hopes

O Musa, do not have long hopes in the world, your heart will become hard and the one who has a hard heart is far from me.

The world according to the Quran

And set forth to them parable of the life of this world: •
like water which We send down from the cloud so the
herbage of the earth becomes tangled on account of it,
then it becomes dry broken into pieces which the winds
scatter; and Allah is the holder of power over all things
(18:45)

Wealth and children are an adornment of the life of this
world; and the ever-abiding, the good works, are better
with your Lord in reward and better in expectation.
(18:46)

The likeness of this world's life is only as water which We send down from the cloud, then the herbage of the earth of which men and cattle eat grows luxuriantly thereby, until when the earth puts on its golden raiment and it becomes garnished, and its people think that they have power over it, Our command comes to it, by night or by day, so We render it as reaped seed; produce, as though it had not been in existence yesterday; thus do We make clear the communications for a people who reflect. (10:24)

Attraction to the world

- instinctive love of beauty, immortality
- striving towards perfection
- forgetfulness
- ignorance and lack of awareness

Positive attractions:

- To change and improve: *It is not from the love of the world to seek what improves you. Holy Prophet (s)*
- To be independent: *My son, do not involve yourself in the world in a way that will harm your hereafter, and do not abandon it such that you become dependent on people.*

Luqman the wise

Time

Be more greedy about your time than about your money.

Holy Prophet (s)

1) Relative to experiences and situations of the world

When times are good it seems to go fast. When times are difficult time seems to go by very slowly.

2) Reciprocal relationship

Surely the night and day work on you, so work on them and they take from you, so you take from them

Imam Ali (a)

Remembrance of death and the grave

The best form of asceticism is the remembrance of death, and the best form of worship is reflection. Whoever is weighed down by the remembrance of death will find his grave a garden from the gardens of Paradise.

Holy Prophet (s)

Remembrance of death deadens desires of the nafs, pulls out the roots of heedlessness, strengthens the heart for the promises of Allah, and softens the nature . . .

Imam as-Sadiq (a)