

# Taking Advice from Nahjul Balagha

Session Four - Khutba No. 114

## Questions for Reflection

- 1) What type of relationship with Allah is described in the first paragraph?
- 2) How are the people with *Taqwa* described in this sermon?
- 3) Why are people so much concerned and occupied by the pursuit of livelihood? How does this interfere with other goals?

# Agenda

- Relationship with God
- What is faith?
- Types of faith
- Stages of faith
- Conviction
- What is conviction?
- Greed

# Relationship with God

- Praise of God
- Thanking God
- Seeking help
- Seeking forgiveness
- Conviction

# What is Faith

- 1) Faith is knowing with the heart, saying with the tongue, and acting with the body parts. **Holy Prophet (s)**
- 2) Faith is of two parts; one half is in patience and the other half is in gratitude. **Holy Prophet (s)**
- 3) The reality of faith is when you give priority to the Truth even if it hurts you, against Falsehood even if it benefits you. **Imam Ali (a)**

# Types of Faith

## 1) Difference between Islam and Faith.

faith is what is established in the heart and verified by actions. Islam is what flows on the tongue and through which marriage is halal.

## 2) Levels of Faith

Surely Faith has ranks, like a ladder. You climb up on it rung after rung . . . . Miqdad was on the eighth, and Abu Dhar was on the ninth, and Salman was on the tenth. **Holy Prophet (s)**

## 3) The best type of Faith

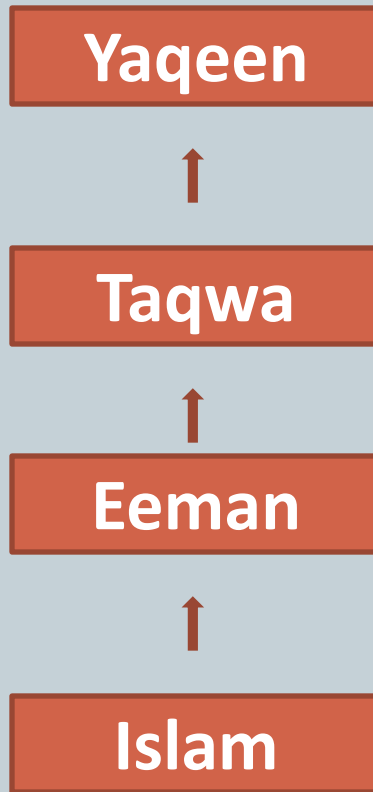
The best type of faith is; to love for Allah and to hate for the sake of Allah, to use your tongue in the remembrance of Allah, to love for others what you love for yourself and to hate for others what you hate for yourself, and to speak good or be silent.

**Holy Prophet (s)**

The dwellers of the desert say: We believe.  
Say: You do not believe but say, We submit  
and faith has not yet entered into your hearts;  
and if you obey Allah and His Messenger,  
He will not diminish anything of your deeds;  
surely Allah is Forgiving, Merciful.

Al-Hujurat, 49:14

# Stages of Faith



# Conviction

Surely faith is better than Islam and conviction is better than faith. There is nothing more honorable than conviction.

Imam as-Sadiq (a)

O' creatures of Allah! the most beloved of Allah is he whom Allah has given power (to act) against his passions, so that his inner side is (submerged in) grief and the outer side is covered with fear. The lamp of guidance is burning in his heart. He has provided entertainment for the day that is to befall him. He regards what is distant to be near himself and takes the hard to be light. He looks at and perceives; he remembers (Allah) and enhances (the tempo of his) actions. **Khutba 87, NB**



# What is conviction?

- 1) To visualize the promises of Allah
- 2) To accept and be pleased with the decree of Allah
- 3) To trust and rely on Allah
- 4) To know that no human being can benefit or harm you unless Allah wills.

# Greed

The example of the one who is greedy for the world is like that of a silk worm. Every time it increases the silk around itself it is further away from escape from it, until it dies in distress..

**Imam al-Baqir(a)**

Greed is poverty. The greedy person is poor even if he possesses the world and all it has.

**Imam as-Sadiq (a)**