

ALI 570

Spiritual  
Guidance  
from the  
Prophet (s)

Session One

Read and Reflect. What word stands out for you? Why? Write your answer in the chat box.

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The function of religion is to bestow order upon human life and to establish an 'outward' harmony upon whose basis man can return inwardly to his Origin.

**Seyyed Hossein Nasr**

The outward is necessary as the basis and point of departure for the journey toward the inward.

By function of His outwardness He creates a world of separation and otherness and through His inwardness He brings men back to their Origin.

<sup>2</sup>  
Seyyed Hoseein Nasr

Outward

Inward

Words to reflect on:

‘Point of Departure’    ‘world of separation’

# Change through servitude

Source:

*Islamic Teachings in Brief*  
Allamah Tabataba'i

The Holy Prophet (S) . . . during one night, while worshipping Allah with usual peace of mind and freedom from worldly affairs, suddenly gained a different personality.

His quiet inner personality converted into a divine one. . . He did not see or hear anything except the truth and reality. He began to speak of divine and heavenly words, wisdom, and guidance. His natural state of mind which was occupied with reforming daily routines in a poor atmosphere of trade and transaction grew stronger and, so he embarked on reforming the world and its inhabitants and subverting the thousands of years old organization of human aberration and cruelty.

How the  
Prophet (s)  
built character  
and purity in  
people

- 1) Revived the Truth
- 2) Spread Divine teachings and Divine realities
- 3) Described sublime ethics
- 4) Practiced what he taught
- 5) Taught actions which express servitude to God
- 6) Brought laws for individual and social progress

He recognized the complete  
harmony and coordination  
between his laws  
and the physical and mental creation of man.

Allamah Tabataba'i, *Islamic Teachings in Brief*

O God, grant me  
the riches of  
poverty  
for in such  
largesse lies my  
power and glory

Hafez

Spiritual  
Poverty

Understanding our need for Allah is an understanding of how poor and needy we are.

يَا أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ أَنْتُمُ الْفُقَرَاءُ إِلَى اللَّهِ ۗ وَاللَّهُ هُوَ  
الْغَنِيُّ الْحَمِيدُ

O mankind! You are the ones who stand  
in need of Allah, and Allah—He is the  
All-sufficient, the Praised One  
Sura Fatir, no.35, verse 15

From the  
Prophet (s)

الْفَقْرُ فَخْرِي وَ بِهِ أَفْتَخِرُ

Poverty is my pride and I take pride in it

Bihar al-Anwar, v.65, p.55

اللَّهُمَّ أَحْيِنِي مِسْكِينًا وَ أَمِتْنِي مِسْكِينًا وَ  
احْشُرْنِي فِي زُمْرَةِ الْمَسَاكِينِ

O Allah make me live as a poor person, make me die  
as a poor person and raise in the company of the poor

Mishkatul Anwar, v.1

اللَّهُمَّ وَ لَا تَكِلْنِي إِلَى نَفْسِي طَرْفَةَ عَيْنٍ أَبَدًا

O Allah, do not ever leave me to myself for the blink  
of an eye

Bihar al-Anwar, v.16, p.217

From the  
Prophet (s)

About the  
human being

لَا يَمْلِكُ لِنَفْسِهِ نَفْعًا وَلَا ضَرًّا  
وَلَا مَوْتًا وَلَا حَيَاةً وَلَا نُشُورًا

He does not control for himself  
any benefit or harm  
or death or life  
or being raised again



A Du'a from  
the Prophet (s)

اللَّهُمَّ اغْنِنِي بِالْإِفْتِقَارِ إِلَيْكَ وَلَا  
تُفْقِرْنِي بِالِاسْتِغْنَاءِ عَنْكَ  
O Allah

enrich me through neediness to You  
and do not make me poor through  
needlessness from You

Bihar al-Anwar, v.69, p.31

# Readings

<https://www.al-islam.org/islamic-teachings-brief-allamah-sayyid-muhammad-husayn-tabatabai/glance-intellectual-and-spiritual>

<https://www.al-islam.org/al-serat/vol-3-no-2-3/interior-life-islam-seyyed-hossein-nasr/interior-life-islam>

<https://directionjournal.org/45/1/spiritual-poverty-shii-perspective.html>