

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.

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.

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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>