

Here below are four sample pages from Lessons from Nahjul Balagha. The entire book contains forty pages.  
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# INTRODUCTION TO Nahjul Balāgha



*Nahjul Balāgha* is a collection of the sermons, letters and sayings of Imām Ali (a). It is considered to be one of the masterpieces of Islamic literature, second only to the Holy Qurʾān and the words of the Holy Prophet (s). Imām Ali (a) was an eloquent speaker and his words were very effective. The topics in *Nahjul Balāgha* deal with different religious subjects and teach people how to be pious and prepare for the Hereafter.



Before *Nahjul Balāgha* was compiled, the words of Imām Ali (a) existed in different books. A scholar by the name of Al-Sahrīf al-Radhī gathered some of them and compiled them into one book. He called the book *Nahjul Balāgha* – the Peak of Eloquence. It is not a complete compilation of all that Imām (a) said and wrote. There are many more sermons and sayings of Imām Ali (a) which exist in other books but are not there in *Nahjul Balāgha*. The book Ghurar al-Hikam consists of over 11,000 sayings from the Imām.

Al-Sahrīf al-Radhī, the compiler of *Nahjul Balāgha* lived in Baghdad, Iraq. He compiled the *Nahjul Balāgha* four centuries after Hijrat (over a thousand years ago). This was during the time of the Abbaside rulers. There were many Muslim scholars and scientists at that time, and Baghdad was a center of Islamic learning. Al-Sahrīf al-Radhī himself was a student of Shaykh al-Mufīd.



## THINK ABOUT IT!!

*Imam Ali (a) used to deliver his sermons without any preparation.*

*Yet his words were so effective.*

*What qualities made him such a great speaker?*

# COMPILER OF Nahjul Balāgha



Al-Sahrīf al-Radhī was a very pious and learned Shia scholar who lived in Baghdad, Iraq. He was born in the year 359 A.H. (939 CE), in the Shī'ī Muslim district of Karkh in West Baghdad. He was named Muhammad and his full name was Muhammad bin Husayn bin Ahmad. Later he became famous as Al-Sahrīf al-Radhī.



Al-Sahrīf al-Radhī was born into a religious and honorable family which has produced many great Shī'ah Muslim scholars. His parents were Sādāt, that means both were descendants of the Holy Prophet (s). His father was Husayn bin Musa, the descendant of the seventh Imam, Imam Mūsā al-Kāzim (a), and his mother was Fātima, the descendant of the fourth Imam, Imam Zaynul 'Ābidīn (a). Thus Al-Sahrīf al-Radhī is also known as Sayyid Radhī, because he was a Sayyid, which is singular of Sādāt.

Al-Sahrīf al-Radhī loved knowledge and spent his whole life learning and acquiring wisdom. He attended many classes, lectures and religious gatherings. People respected him a lot and even the Sunnis and non-Muslims in Baghdad spoke highly of him.

Seek knowledge from the cradle to the grave.  
- Holy Prophet Muhammad (s)



## THINK ABOUT IT!!

*Al-Sahrīf al-Radhī worked hard to learn and acquire wisdom. What are some ways I can seek knowledge in my life?*

# AHLUL BAYT IN Nahjul Balāgha



## Ahlul Bayt (a) in Nahjul Balāgha

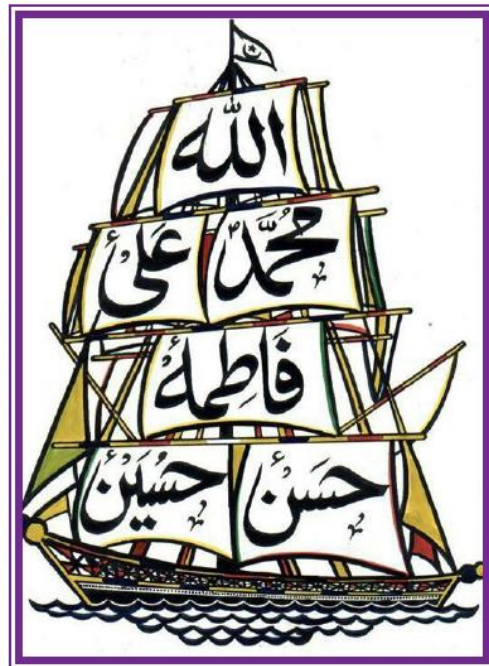
Look at the people of the Prophet's family. Adhere to their direction. Follow their footsteps because they would never let you out of guidance, and never throw you into destruction.

If they sit down, you sit down, and if they rise up you rise up. Do not go ahead of them, as you would thereby go astray and do not lag behind of them as you would thereby be ruined.

I have seen the companions of the Prophet but I do not find anyone resembling them. They began the day with dust on the hair and face (in hardship of life) and passed the night in prostration and standing in prayers. Sometimes they put down their foreheads and sometimes their cheeks.

With the recollection of their resurrection it seemed as though they stood on live coal. It seemed that in between their eyes there were signs like knees of goats, resulting from long prostrations.

When Allah was mentioned their eyes flowed freely till their shirt collars were drenched. They trembled for fear of punishment and hope of reward as the tree trembles on the day of stormy wind.



- Khutba 97

# Assignment

1) Check the meaning of the following verses of the Holy Quran. Then write them down beside the correct topic. What similarities can you find between the verses and the khutbas in this lesson?



Sins: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Determination: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Relatives: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_