

ALI 622 – Session One

# Learning from the Spiritual Wayfarers of the Past

Mysticism is the path that can take man to his highest possible level of character, and let him devour the taste of being related to divinity.

True mysticism will address all dimensions of life; external, internal, social and individual. Based on such an interpretation of Mysticism, being able to put a difference between sayings of Imam Ali (as) related to mysticism and other sayings both in the Nahjul-Balaghah and other books proves to be very difficult. This is while the Imam mentions mystical things in all situations, the reason being that all inner and outer problems of people stem from the fact that they do not truly have Irfan (knowledge and understanding) towards Allah, and true Mysticism is the only way out of such difficulties for humankind.

<https://www.islamquest.net/en/archive/fa7657>

# Positive Mysticism

Positive mysticism consists of the expansion and divine domination of the “human self” over the universe, in order to let his “self” be absorbed by absolute perfection, which eventually leads to man’s reaching God.

Various kinds of mysticism have one thing in common.

Whether Pythagorean, Islamic or Western mysticism, they all emphasize that animal-like desires and needs should be controlled and avoided by the mystic.

The true mystic is always on his way. He never believes that he has arrived at his destination.

*I'm at the service of that one  
who never thinks he has reached the peak.  
I am willing to serve and follow that person  
who never even thinks about the possibility  
that he may have achieved the highest of mystic levels.*

**Jalal-addin Rumi**

Akhund  
Mullah  
Husayn Quli  
Hamadani

- 1) The Quran as the way to God.
- 2) Imams are the path to the Quran.
- 3) Necessity of following the Shariah.
- 4) Purity of the heart
- 5) Refrain from worldly indulgences that deaden the heart.

Man's soul is the Manual for the  
Spiritual Journey

# Ayatullah Sayyid Ali Qadhi

As long as man's soul does not pass the world of ideas or **imagination** he cannot enter the world of **intellect**, and until one does not enter the world of intellect, he cannot attain the true **gnosis** and achieve the desired purpose, namely, nearness to God.

# Ayatullah Sayyid Ali Qadhi

- 1) Weaken the animal nature
- 2) Etiquette of food and sleep
- 3) Staying up in worship
- 4) The Yunusiyyah Dhikr
- 5) Sorrow and Dhikr