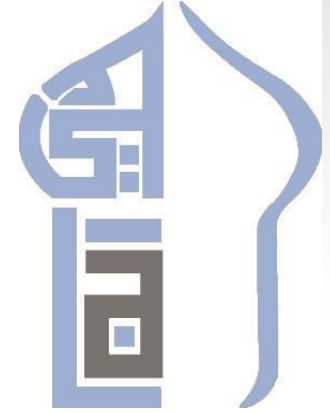




بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



ALI 686: *Sahīfa Sajjādiyya* - A Spiritual Manual

We will have a brief look at the contents of the *Sahīfah* and discuss how we can use it to fulfill our daily spiritual needs.

Al-Mahdi Islamic Centre, London, ON

Saturday 13 July 2024/7 Muharram 1446

Our objective of the course

﴿ ۱۱۵ ﴾ أَفَحَسِبْتُمْ أَنَّمَا خَلَقْنَاكُمْ عَبَثًا وَأَنَّكُمْ إِلَيْنَا لَا تُرْجَعُونَ

Q 23:115 *Did you think that We had created you for a playful purpose and that you were not to return to Us?*

- 1, know that the *Sahīfah* is a great heritage from the Ahlul Bayt of the Holy Prophet (s)
- 2, It has very many creedal, ethical, social lessons and spiritual lessons.
- 3, It should be used a Spiritual Manual after the Holy Quran by all Muslims, but more by the Shī'ī Muslims

Access to *Sahīfah* translations

Go to the following websites to access the Arabic text with translation into English:

1, At <https://academyofislam.com/sahifa/> you will find i) Arabic text with line-by-line English translation and ii) for each Du'ā you will find two parallel translations for each passage of the Arabic.

2, at <https://www.al-islam.org/sahifa-al-kamilah-al-sajjadiyya-imam-ali-zayn-al-abidin> you will find the Arabic text of the entire Du'ā followed by its English translation. It also has a detailed Introduction by the translator, Dr William Chittick.

14 articles on *Sahīfah Sajjādiyyah*

Please try to read all 14 articles from today till 25th of Muharram – the shahadat day of Imam al-Sajjad (a). These are found at <https://academyofislam.com/sahifa/>

The following four articles should be read first

1. A H Sheriff, “Saheefa Al-Kamilah: The Perfect Epistle” from *The Light* magazine, available at:
2. “Introduction to Al-Sahifa by the martyred Imam Āyatullāh Sayyid Muhammad Baqir Al-Sadr
3. Sahifa Sajjadiyya: An abandoned spiritual treasure.
4. Sayyid Saeed Akhtar Rizvi, “The Illustrious Imamate period of Imam Zaynul ‘Ābidīn,” found online at:

www.al-islam.org/al-serat/Illustrious.htm

The author of the *Sahīfah*

When he performed *wudū* before prayer, he used to turn pale for fear of God. Being questioned as to the cause of this intense feeling, he replied, “*Don’t you know in whose presence I am going to stand?*”

One day, while he was saying his prayers, his house took fire and several voices were heard shouting, “Fire, fire!” but he did not feel at all alarmed and continued to pray as if nothing had happened. In the meantime, the fire died out, and when he had finished praying, people said to him, “Son of the Prophet, what made you unmindful of the fire?” “*The fire of hell,*” replied he. So absorbing was his devotion. (Ahmad Ali Mohani, Intro, *Sahifat-ul-Kamila*)

Question: What else do you know about him?

What do we mean by: A spiritual manual

Can we please have three volunteers
who can explain to us about the
phrase, “a spiritual manual.”

Let us look at Du'ā 1 in *Sahīfa*

8 -Praise belongs to God, for, had He withheld from His servants the knowledge to praise Him for the uninterrupted kindnesses with which He has tried them and the manifest favors which He has lavished upon them, they would have moved about in His kindnesses without praising Him and spread themselves out in His provision without thanking Him.

9 -Had such been the case, they would have left the bounds of humanity for that of beastliness and become as He has described in the firm text of His Book: *They are but as the cattle—nay, but they are further astray from the way!* (Q 25:46)

From Du'ā No 2 in the *Sahīfa*

3- O God, bless Muhammad, entrusted by You with Your revelation, distinguished by You among Your creatures, devoted to You among Your servants, the imam of mercy, the leader of good, the key to blessing, 4- who wearied his soul for Your affairs, 5- exposed his body to detested things for Your sake, 6- showed open enmity toward his next of kin by summoning to You, 7- fought against his family for Your good pleasure, 8- cut the ties of the womb in giving life to Your religion, 9- sent far those close because of their denial, 10- brought near those far because of their response to You, 11- showed friendship to the most distant for Your sake, 12- displayed enmity toward the nearest for Your sake, 13- made his soul persevere in delivering Your message, 14- tired it in summoning to Your creed, 15- busied it in counselling those worthy of Your summons,

Holy Prophet's struggles

16- migrated to the land of exile and the place of remoteness from the home of his saddlebags, the walkway of his feet, the ground of his birth, and the intimate abode of his soul, desiring to exalt Your religion and seeking help against those who disbelieved in You,

17- until what he attempted against Your enemies went well with him 18- and what he arranged for Your friends was accomplished. 19- He revolted against them seeking victory through Thine aid, becoming strong despite his weakness with Thy help. 20- He fought against them in the center of their cities 21- and attacked them in the midst of their dwellings, 22- until Your command prevailed, and Your word rose up, though the idolaters were averse

Functions of the night & day

5-He created for them the night, that they might rest in it from tiring movements and wearisome exertions and He made it a garment for them that they might be clothed in its ease and its sleep, that it might be for them refreshment and strength, that they might reach therein pleasure and passion.

6- He created for them the daytime, giving sight, that they might seek within it of His bounty, find the means to His provision, and roam freely in His earth, searching for that through which to attain the immediate in their life in this world and to achieve the deferred in their life to come. (*Sahīfah*, Du'ā No 6)

Points from A H Sheriff

1. A researcher accepted Islam due to *Sahīfa*. Her observation: *no other book would surpass this as it contained the supreme possible human approach towards the Creator Allah.*
2. Quotation from Shaykh al-Islam Tantawi of Egypt. His remarks: *I was deeply impressed by the value and magnificence of these invocations. I wonder how the Muslims have all along been ignorant of such a valuable treasure. They have been in deep slumber for these centuries. They could not even feel that Allah has supplied them with such a precious store of knowledge.*
3. Gift from the 12th Imam (af): *In a dream once, the Allāmah requested the 12th Imam for a gift of a book from which he could constantly benefit. The Imam recommended Sahīfa telling him that it was a gift from him and he should go and collect the book from a person named at a particular place. Allāmah confirms that in accordance with the advice of the Imam, he collected the Sahīfa from which he benefited a great deal in his exercises of self-purification. The book was cherished as an invaluable gift from the Imam and circulated round among the believers of the place.*

Article by S. Saeed Akhtar Rizvi

- Challenges faced by the Imam al-Sajjad (a)
- Hajar al-Aswad testified him Imamate
- Using Azaa al-Husayn to unite the Shi'ah
- Using Du'aa to teach Islam: for e.g.
 - Du'aa 20 on what are the best & elevated morals
 - Du'aa 30 on why it is necessary to avoid debts
 - Du'aa 17 against the mischief of Shaytan
 - Du'aa 27 for people facing war & opposition
 - Du'aa 24 on the position of parents
 - And many more supplications

Efforts to preserve *Sahīfa* - 1

“Behold,” said Yahyā, “I will show you the complete book of prayers which my father preserved from his father and concerning which my father enjoined upon me by will, to guard it carefully and to deny it to the undeserving.”

“Thereupon.” says Mutawakkil, “I stood up before him and kissed his forehead, and said, ‘By the Lord, O son of the Apostle of God, I seek nearness unto God by loving and obeying you, and I fervently hope that He will bless me with your love in my life and in my death.’ Then he handed over the writing which I had given to him to a boy who was with him, and said, “Transcribe this prayer in a clear and beautiful hand and show it to me, so that I may learn it by heart, for I had asked Ja’far aforetime to let me have it, but he denied it to me.”

Efforts to preserve *Sahīfa* - 2

‘Then Yahyā called for a bag, and took out from it a book which was covered and sealed; he examined the seal and kissed it with tears in his eyes; then he broke the seal and opened the book, and spreading its pages before him, he caressed it with his face and eyes, saying, “If you had not mentioned the prophecy of my cousin that I shall be killed and crucified, verily I would never have parted with this book, and I would never have given it to you. . . So I am afraid lest such a treasure of divine knowledge might fall into the hands of Banu Umayyah, who might conceal it, and exploit it for their own selfish ends. Therefore, take it from me and guard it with your life, as a sacred trust, to be delivered after the fulfilment of God’ decree concerning that tribe (i. e. the Banu Umayyah) and myself

References

Academy for Learning Islam. *The Glimpses of Sahīfa Sajjādiyya*, Richmond Hill: 2017

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Imam Zayn Al- ‘Ābidīn (a), *Sahifat-ul-Kamila*, 2nd Edition, Ahmad Ali Mohani (Tr.), Lucknow: 1969