

The Qur'an and the Nahjul-Balagha

The Guiding lights for the Believers

Bismillahir Rahmaanir Raheem

The two important resources for the guidance of the believers are; the Quran and Nahjul-Balagha of Imam Ali A.S.

If we keep in touch with these two, we will stay on the straight path, the path of Tawheed and do not get seduced by Satan's promptings.

The Qur'an. Allah SWT invites us to think and reflect on the Qur'an. Simply reciting the Arabic without knowing the meaning has some merits, but it will not enlighten us with the wisdom contained in it.

Regular reading of the scripture is essential in countering the misguidance prompted into our heart by Satan, the archenemy of mankind.

We read this in **Surah Al Hamd** several times a day; *"Iyyaka Na'budu wa iyyaka Nastae'en"* *Thee do we worship and Thee alone we ask for help.* **(1:5)**

The Prophet and all the Imams (Peace be upon them) recited these words many times a day.

Ayat-ul Kursi. *"His throne extends over the Heavens and the earth, and He feels no fatigue in guarding and preserving them, for He is the most High, the Supreme."* **(2:255)**

"To Allah belongs the dominion of the heavens and the earth; and Allah has power over all things." **(3:189)**

Surah Ikhlaas. *"Say He is Allah, the one and the only. Allah is free of needs. He begetteth not, nor is He begotten; and there is none like unto Him."* (S. 112)

Nahjul Balagha contains the sermons, letters and wise sayings of Imam Ali A.S. These are guidance to lead a God-Conscious life based upon the teachings contained in the Qur'an.

People fall prey to doubt and misguidance because they do not keep in touch with these two valuable resources.

Why did Allah sent prophets and Imams?

The answer would be to teach mankind about existence of one and only deity, God or Allah, and to invite them to obedience and worship of God.

God did not send the prophets and Imams because he was too busy managing the affairs of the Heavens and the world and needed help, or He gets tired, or He needs company.

Imam Ali says, "Allah designed the creation with knowledge, and brought it in existence with His unlimited capacity without the need for learning, without following any previous example, without committing any mistake, and without any help." **(Nahjul Balagha Sermon 190)**

Again, Imam Ali A.S. says, “Whoever admitted limitations for him enumerated Him (i.e., denied His Oneness and uniqueness).” **(Sermon 1)**

“He is One, such that there is none with whom He may keep company or none whose company He may miss.” **(Sermon1)**

Imam Ali: “I seek His help, as He is Mighty and He subdues (all troubles). I depend upon Him, as He is the Sufficer and the Supporter.” **(Sermon 82)**

“What He created was not to fortify His authority, nor for fear of the consequences of (passage of) time, nor fearing some agitating peer, nor any competing rival. Rather all creatures are nourished by Him and are humbled (before Him).” **(Sermon 64)**

“He is distinct from things (created), because He overpowers them and dominates over them, while the created things are distinct from Him because of their subjugation to Him and because they turn to Him. **(Sermon 185)**

About the knowledge of Imam Ali A.S. “GOD alone knows what is there in the wombs, whether male or female, ugly or handsome, generous or miserly, mischievous or pious, and who will be doomed to Hell, and who will be in the company of the prophets in paradise. This is the knowledge of hidden things, which is not known to anyone save God. God transmitted all other knowledge to the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh&p). The prophet then passed the knowledge to me. He prayed to God that my bosom may retain this knowledge.” **(Sermon 127)**

Imam Ali’s reliance upon God. “Surely God has provided a strong protective shield over me. When my time to depart comes, it (the shield) will be removed from me, and death will overtake me.” **(Sermon 61)**

Conclusion. God sent the prophets and the Imams to mankind to introduce His Tawheed (Oneness) and to guide mankind to obey and worship God. God is *As-Samad*, which means He is free of needs. He does not need help from humans to carry on His heavenly duties.

God bestowed spiritual powers and miracles to the prophets and the Imams, so they will convince men about the truth of their divine mission. They used these powers in the line of duty and not for personal use.

Let us pray that the Qur’an, the Nahjul Balagha, and the teachings of the fourteen Masumeen be our guiding light in our Imaan (faith) and religious and worldly affairs. Aameen.

Quotes of Imam Ali A.S. are from the book “What is True Success? Excerpts from the book “Peak of Eloquence” (Nahjul-Balagha) edited by this writer.

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