

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

We seek forgiveness from Allah
We stand witness to Allah that there is no God but Him
That Muhammad (SAWW) is his servant and messenger

Muhasabah (Self inventory)

- Imam Ali in his will to his son Imam Hasan (as) said: Oh my son, a believer breaks his day in 3 parts :
 1. Engaging in supplicating his Lord.
 2. Engaging in self introspection or muhasabah.
 3. Enjoying the pleasure which is Halal and thanking Allah for it.
[Bihar al anwaar vol 90 pg 291]

The meeting with Allah (swt) is our ultimate destination

- In Surah Al Inshiqaaq verse 84:6 of the Holy Quran Allah swt says:

يَا أَيُّهَا الْإِنْسَانُ إِنَّكَ كَادِحٌ إِلَىٰ رَبِّكَ كَدْحًا فَمُلَاقِيهِ

O man! Verily you are ever toiling on towards your Lord painfully toiling, but you shall meet Him.

- In Surah An Najm verse 35:24, Allah swt says:

وَأَنَّ إِلَىٰ رَبِّكَ الْمُنْتَهَىٰ

And that to your Lord is the goal.

- In Surah Faatir verse 35:18, Allah swt says:

وَالِإِلَهِ الْمَصِيرُ

And the destination (of all) is to Allah.

- All the above three verses imply that verily, we are travelers, from nothing, who have entered the realm of existence and are going to the Abode of Love with the hope that we shall meet Him.

- Our ultimate destination is further confirmed by verse 156 of Surah al Baqarah where Allah swt says:

إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ

To Allah we belong, and to Him is our return.

- Indeed we are His.
- We unconditionally submit to His will.
- We shall return to Him. He is our destination.

Importance of accepting the wilayat of Imam Ali (as)

- In Surah Hashr 59:18, Allah swt says:

اَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَلْتَنْظُرْ نَفْسٌ مَّا قَدَّمَتْ لِغَدٍ

وَاتَّقُوا اللَّهَ إِنَّ اللَّهَ خَبِيرٌ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ

O you who believe! Be careful of (your duty to) Allah, and let every soul consider what it has sent on for the morrow, and be careful of (your duty to) Allah; surely Allah is Aware of what you do.

- The "fear of God" is akin to love. *Taqwa* implies full awareness of the laws made by Allah - which prevents and safeguards man from transgressing the boundaries laid down by Allah, creates self-control, keeps away from sin and injustice and stimulates positive doing of good. It is not merely a feeling or an emotion; it is an act, **a doing of things which become a preparation and provision for the hereafter.**
- In the event of Ghadeer the Holy Prophet said: "Verily Gabriel had informed me that Allah The Most High has said: whoever has enmity towards Ali and does not take him as his master, My curse and anger is upon him." And then the Prophet recited the above stated verse **وَلْتَنْظُرْ نَفْسٌ مَّا قَدَّمَتْ لِغَدٍ**. [Bihar al anwaar vol 37 pg 2091]
- It is clear from this tradition that one of our main duties to Allah swt is to accept the wilayat of Imam Ali (as). If one fails in this duty then the *curse and anger* of the Allah swt befalls on him.
- On the Day of Judgment the rejectors of wilayat of Ali will lament and wail and say wish we acknowledged the vicegerency of Ali.

Remember Allah and take account of your deeds

- In Surah Hashr verse 59:19, Allah swt says:

وَلَا تَكُونُوا كَالَّذِينَ نَسُوا اللَّهَ فَأَنْسَاهُمْ أَنْفُسَهُمْ أُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْفَٰسِقُونَ

*And be not like those who forsook Allah,
so He made them forsake their own souls: these it is that are the transgressors.*

- To forget Allah is to forget the only reality. As man is only *a reflected existence*, if he does not remember Allah, he is bound to lose himself. So remembrance of Allah is in the interest of man. Allah is free from all needs.
- Alif cannot be joined with other letters but other letters can be joined with Alif. Alif signifies that Allah swt is *majeed* and we cannot subscribe the same status as Allah to others.
- In Surah An Naba verse 78:40, Allah swt says:

إِنَّا أَنْذَرْنَاكُمْ عَذَابًا قَرِيبًا يَوْمَ يَنْظُرُ الْمَرْءُ مَا قَدَّمَتْ يَدَاهُ

وَيَقُولُ الْكَافِرُ يَا لَيْتَنِي كُنْتُ تُرَابًا

*Surely We have warned you of a chastisement near at hand:
The day when man shall see what his two hands have sent before,
and the unbeliever shall say: O! Would that I were dust!*

- It is clear from the above verse that muhasabah is important and that we should account and lament for our bad deeds in this world and ask Allah swt for forgiveness before it is too late. If we do not indulge in muhasabah then we would be like those would cry “**O! Would that I were dust!**” on the Day of Reckoning.
- Ibn Abass was once being asked why Ali is nicknamed Abu Turab. He replied: “Ali the master of the earth and the proof of Allah for the inhabitants of earth. Through him the earth is tranquil and continues to exist. Rasulullah saaw has said: On the day of resurrection the disbeliever upon seeing the rewards awaiting the shia of Ali to have said “يَا لَيْتَنِي كُنْتُ تُرَابًا” O! Would that I were dust! This implies that the unbelievers will wish that they had been from amongst the shia of Ali. Referring to the verse in surah *An Naba* 78 / 40, **وَيَقُولُ الْكَافِرُ يَا لَيْتَنِي كُنْتُ تُرَابًا** and the unbeliever shall say *O! Would that I were dust.*” [Tafseer al bashaeer vol 51 pg 577]

Classical Tafseer Class - Notes
4th April 2009

- Imam Sadiq (as) said: "On Day of Qiyamat there are 50 stages and every stage is of 1000 years." Then the Imam recited verse 4 of Surah Ma'aarij:

تَعْرُجُ الْمَلَائِكَةُ وَالرُّوحُ إِلَيْهِ فِي يَوْمٍ كَانَ مِقْدَارُهُ خَمْسِينَ أَلْفَ سَنَةٍ

To Him ascend the angels and the Spirit in a day the measure of which is fifty thousand years.

- In our worldly lives we are very concerned with our Body Mass Index (BMI). In the same manner we should also be concerned about our *Soul Mass Index* (SMI), i.e. we should make a habit of self accounting all our deeds so that our soul remains healthy.
- It is said that the People of *ahlul maghrefat* get a pen and paper during nightfall and make note of what they said and did during the day. In other words they engage in muhasabah before going to sleep.

Traditions on the significance of muhasabah

- Rasulullah saw said: "Whoever possesses at least one or all of the following traits shall be protected by the shade of Allah on the Day when there is no other shade."
 1. He gives to the people from what he himself likes to have.
 2. He does not do anything unless he makes sure whether this will please Allah or raise His anger.
 3. He does not blame others for what he has not corrected in himself. *Whoever tries to improve himself will never have a chance to seek the flaws of other people.*"
Mishkat ul - Anwar fi Ghuraraa il – Akhbar tradition # 1457
- In Rauzat al-Vaezeen it is narrated that God's Prophet (a.s) said: "God will make whoever blames himself more than he blames others immune from the fear of the Resurrection Day." [*Mishkat ul - Anwar fi Ghuraraa il – Akhbar tradition # 1450*]
- **"Imam Sadiq (as) said:** *"Detecting your faults before you seek other peoples' faults is most beneficial."* [*Mishkat ul - Anwar fi Ghuraraa il – Akhbar tradition # 1443*]
- Imam Reza (as) said: *"One of the Israelites worshipped God for forty years. Then he made a sacrifice but it was not accepted. He said to himself that it must be his own fault. God the Almighty then revealed to him "Your blaming yourself was better than the forty years of worshipping."* [*Mishkat ul - Anwar fi Ghuraraa il – Akhbar tradition # 1448*]
- Imam Reza (as) said: **"Whoever does not reckon his own deeds everyday is not one of us.** If he has done any good deeds, he should ask God to give him an opportunity to do more, and if he has done any bad deeds he should repent and ask God for forgiveness." [*Mishkat ul - Anwar fi Ghuraraa il – Akhbar tradition # 1448*]

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- Take your account before you are accounted for, weigh yourself before you are weighed and prepare yourself for here after. [Mizaanul hikmah tradition # 3837]
- In Tafseer Askari it is stated: The Prophet said: “Let me tell you who is the wisest amongst the wise, and the most fool amongst the fool. The wisest amongst the wise is he who reflects himself, takes his deeds into account and prepares for death. The most fool amongst the fool is he who follows his desires and dreams that they he will be saved.”
- Someone asked Imam Ali, “How do we take account of ourselves?” Imam Ali (as) said: “After spending the day you should ask yourself, ‘today has passed and will never return. Verily Allah will question how you spent the day and what have you done?’ Have you thanked Allah? Have you fulfilled the rights of your momin brother? Have you reduced his agonies? Did you take care of his immediate family members in his absence? Do you remember him after his death? Have you looked after the needs of Muslim brothers? If you have done good then thank Allah and glorify Him for the guidance. If you have done bad then you should seek forgiveness from Allah.” [Safinul bihar Vol 2 pg 174]

Poetry

- *Each day that passes, a portion of me it takes away,
On the heart, a bitter taste it leaves, and then glides away.*
- *We take delight in every day that we have lived,
yet each day that passes is a portion (gone) of a lifetime.*
- *Man rejoices as long as the nights continue to pass by,
yet, he too, as they vanish gradually perishes away.*

Disclaimer:

In this tafseer class, there might be shortcomings in imparting the knowledge of the tafseer. If there is any information that requires correction, please do not hesitate to let us know via e-mail: jaafari_tafseer_committee@yahoo.com.sg. Allah knows best.