

**بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ**

**In the Name of Allah  
the All-Merciful, the All-Compassionate**



**Research Sector**

# **NAHJUL BALAGHA**

## **Sermons, Letters & Sayings of Imam Ali**

**Islamic Thought  
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## Preface

Allah, the Glorious and the most High, sent hundreds of thousands of representatives to guide mankind and to teach us that Allah alone is worthy of worship. The Final Prophet Muhammad (s.a.w) completed the message of Allah through both his sayings and his actions. He showed mankind the answers to all its predicaments, such that Allah pronounced him the seal of prophethood.

The Holy Prophet's loyal cousin, trusted companion and unmatched student Ali (a.s) introduces himself as the one who ***“never disobeyed Allah or His Prophet at all, and by virtue of courage with which Allah honoured me I supported him with my life on occasions when even the brave turn away and feet remain behind (instead of proceeding forward). When the Prophet died his head was on my chest, and his last breath blew over my palms when I made it pass over my face.”*** (Nahjul Balagha: Sermon 195)

Ali (a.s) continued to preach the final message of Allah and His prophet. He guided the people to the right path in accordance with the teachings of the Holy Quran and the Holy Prophet, and thus he embodied the hadith of the Prophet in which he said: ‘Ali is with the Quran, and the Quran is with Ali’.

Ali (a.s) in his wisdom and vast knowledge, which encompassed the secrets of the universe, showed us how to reach the revered position of the servant of Allah. Ameerul Momineen said: ***“A group of people worshipped Allah out of desire for reward; this is the worship of traders. Another group worshipped out of fear; this is the worship of slaves. Still another group worshipped Allah out of gratefulness; this is the worship of free men.”*** (Nahjul Balagha: Short Saying 234)

The origins of Nahjul Balagha root from a collation of Imam Ali's sermons,

writings and short sayings by the famous Shia Scholar Syed Razi, his main focus being the eloquence of the Arabic language.

Nahjul Balagha is a key to attaining nearness to Ali (a.s) and thus to our Holy Prophet (s.a.w) and subsequently to Allah. It gives us a precious insight into the creator of these words and to the thoughts of Imam Ali (a.s). We are also introduced to those who were the beloved of Imam Ali (a.s) such as Abu Zarr, Amaar or Malik and we can study how they achieved that status.

Nahjul Balagha gives an opportunity to the followers of Imam Ali to study the best way of conducting oneself in all walks and fields of life. It is a treasure that permits us to feel as though we are in the blessed presence of Imam Ali (a.s) and seeking knowledge directly from him. We are fortunate enough to then be able to pass this valuable knowledge to those who are most in need of it.

Nahjul Balagha demonstrates different aspects of Imam Ali (a.s). He can be seen in a battlefield bearing his flag and sword with a valour that causes the bravest of enemies to tremble in fear. On the other hand, he himself can be found deep in prayer, trembling and weeping from fear of Almighty Allah.

The lessons that we learn from the gem that is Nahjul Balagha, have been the subject of countless books. Although we are unable to summarise Nahjul Balagha and its teachings in this preface, our aim is to help and encourage you to contemplate over its lessons, and in turn encourage others to benefit from it.

Islamic Thought has always tried to make the followers of the Ahlubayt aware of the rich literary means of knowledge provided by books such as the Nahjul Balagha and inform the community of the undying efforts of our scholars. We are able to proudly claim that Shiaan-e-Ali have unmatched sources of knowledge.

We are hopeful that our English-speaking youngsters will recognise the importance of their youth, and devote their time to studying the Quran, sayings of the Prophet and the Nahjul Balagha and shape their lives accordingly.

In composing this edition of the Nahjul Balagha, we mainly used the translation of Syed Ali Reza with some input from the translation of Syed Mohammad Askari and other online sources to whom we wish to show our gratitude. We want to thank all those who helped us in publishing the Nahjul Balagha, especially the efforts of K. Z. Alavi, and those who supported Islamic Thought in any aspect. We pray for Allah to reward them amply.

May Allah give us the opportunity to benefit from the words of Imam Ali (a.s.) and make it a means of success in this world and salvation for the hereafter. Together we will try to fulfil Imam Ali's (a.s.) desire when he proclaims:

*“... In the hope that some group may join me, find guidance through me and see my light with their weak eyes.” (Nahjul Balagha: Sermon 55)*

**Wasalaam,  
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