

# Our Spiritual Journey to Get Closer to Allah

Knowing Allah (SWT) Through Nahjul Balagha



Khutba 91: Examining the Attributes of Allah

# Reminder when Participating in the Chat

- 1) Do not write any personal information in the chat box (involving your email address and phone number).
- 2) Do not make fun of the responses of other students (show respect to everyone).
- 3) Once the class has begun all discussions should relate only to the class (no private conversations with others).

# Thinking Time

- What is something that you remember about Nahjul Balagha?



# Overview of Nahjul Balagha

- A collection of sermons, letters and sayings of Imam Ali (a) dealing with different religious topics as well as how to be pious and prepare for the Hereafter
- Sharif ar-Radhi compiled the words of Imam Ali (a) into a book called Nahjul Balagha- the Peak of Eloquence

# Words of Wisdom from Nahjul Balagha Hadith n.227

- **Amir al-mu'minin, peace be upon him, was asked about belief (iman) when he said:** Belief means appreciation with the heart, acknowledgement with the tongue, and action with the limbs.

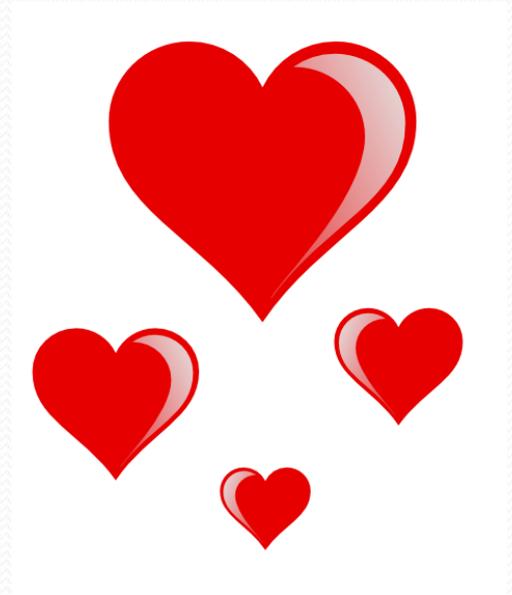
# Preparing the Tools for the Spiritual Journey



- A copy of the khutba 91 from Nahjul Balagha for guidance
- A copy of the mountain climbing challenge
- A notebook, journal to write your self reflections on the spiritual journey

# What do we Hope to Achieve from the Spiritual Journey?

- A stronger connection with Allah
- More knowledge about Allah
- More love for Allah in our heart



# Excerpt from Khutba #91-Attribution of Allah

- *Praise be to Allah . . . He is the First for whom there was no 'before' so that there could be anything before Him. He is the Last for whom there is no 'after' so that there could be anything after Him.*
- *He prevents the pupils of the eyes from seeing Him or perceiving Him. Time does not change over Him, so as to admit of any change of condition about Him. He is not in any place so as to allow Him movement*



# Story Time



- “ I Can’t See Allah with my Eyes”
- What can we learn from this story?



# Excerpt from Khutba #91-Attribution of Allah

- *If He gives away all that the mines of the mountains emit out, or the gold, silver, pearls and cuttings of coral which the shells of the ocean throw out, it would not affect his **generosity**, nor decrease the extent of what He has. (In fact) He would still have such treasures of bounty as would not decrease by the demands of the creatures, because He is that **generous** Being whom the begging of beggars cannot make poor nor the persistence of beseechers make miserly.*



# Let's Reflect on the Generosity of Allah

- He is giving and munificent
- He gives and praises
- He gives before being asked
- He fulfills all promises but waives what is due from others
- He never turns down a supplicant
- He rewards a mere good intention, but never punishes a bad intention unless followed by a bad deed

# Thinking Time

- What are some examples of ways God has been generous to you?



# Excerpt from Khutba #91-Attribution of Allah

- *He originated the creation without any example which He could follow and without any specimen prepared by any known creator that was before Him. He showed us the realm of His Might, and such wonders which speak of His Wisdom.*
- *The signs of His creative power and standard of His wisdom are fixed in the wonderful things He has created. Whatever He has created is an argument in His favor and a guide towards Him. Even a **silent thing** is a guide towards Him as though **it speaks**, and its **guidance towards the Creator is clear**.*

# Beyond Our Imagination



- He cannot be understood by the human mind.
- It is not possible to know the Essence of God. It is possible to know His attributes.
- God does not have a material existence.
- He is all Perfect and the source of all perfection in the world – of all good qualities.

# Excerpt from Khutba #91-Attribution of Allah



- *I stand witness that whoever equated You with anything out of Your creation took a match for You, and whoever takes a match for You is an unbeliever, according to what is stated in Your **clear verses** and indicated by the evidence of Your clear arguments. (I also stand witness that) You are that Allah who cannot be confined in (the chains of) intelligence so as to admit change of condition by entering its imagination nor in the **shackles of mind** so as to become limited and an object of alterations.*

# Examining Verses in the Holy Qur'an that Discuss God

• هُوَ اللَّهُ الَّذِي لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ ۖ عَالِمُ الْغَيْبِ وَالشَّهَادَةِ ۖ هُوَ الرَّحْمَنُ  
الرَّحِيمُ

[ 59:22 ] He is Allah, than Whom there is no other Allah, the *Knower of the Invisible* and the *Visible*. He is the *Beneficent*, *Merciful*.

# Examining Verses in the Holy Qur'an that Discuss God

● هُوَ اللَّهُ الَّذِي لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْمَلِكُ الْقُدُّوسُ السَّلَامُ الْمُؤْمِنُ الْمُهَيَّمِنُ  
الْعَزِيزُ الْجَبَّارُ الْمُتَكَبِّرُ ۚ سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ عَمَّا يُشْرِكُونَ

[59:23] He is Allah, than Whom there is no other Allah, the Sovereign Lord, the Holy One, Peace, the *Keeper of Faith, the Guardian*, the Majestic, the Compeller, the Superb. Glorified be Allah from all that they ascribe as partner (unto Him).

# Examining Verses in the Holy Qur'an that Discuss God

● هُوَ اللَّهُ الْخَالِقُ الْبَارِئُ الْمُصَوِّرُ <sup>ط</sup>لَهُ الْأَسْمَاءُ الْحُسْنَى <sup>ج</sup> يُسَبِّحُ لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ <sup>ط</sup> وَهُوَ الْعَزِيزُ الْحَكِيمُ

[ 59:24] He is Allah, the Creator, the Shaper out of naught, the Fashioner. His are the most beautiful names. All that is in the heavens and the earth glorifieth Him, and He is the Mighty, the Wise.

# Qualities of Allah

- a) Sifate Thubutiyyah – that which Allah is: All good qualities originate from Him. All Knowing, all Powerful, Kind, Forgiving, Just . . .
- b) Sifate Thalbiyyah – that which Allah is not: He is not limited by time, or place. he cannot be seen or heard as the senses cannot perceive Him. Senses can only perceive material objects. He has no beginning or end.

# Optional Reflection Activity

- Think of 4 times during the upcoming week that you feel God has been very generous to you and you can thank him for.
- Write each of the times on the mountain steps in the mountain climbing challenge.

