

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 slave and messenger

Review of Book “Self Building” by Ayatollah Amini

- The Holy Prophet said: “Ali you are like Kaaba. You don’t need to go to people but people need to come to you to take your bayat.”
- Ayatollah Amini was born in 1925 in Esfahan. While pursuing his religious studies at Esfahan and Qum he also taught Literature, Jurisprudence and Philosophy.
- In verse 3:7 of the Holy Quran, Allah swt says:

هُوَ الَّذِي أَنْزَلَ عَلَيْكَ الْكِتَابَ مِنْهُ آيَاتٌ مُحْكَمَاتٌ هُنَّ أُمُّ الْكِتَابِ وَأُخَرُ مُتَشَابِهَاتٌ
فَأَمَّا الَّذِينَ فِي قُلُوبِهِمْ زَيْغٌ فَيَتَّبِعُونَ مَا تَشَابَهَ مِنْهُ ابْتِغَاءَ الْفِتْنَةِ وَابْتِغَاءَ تَأْوِيلِهِ وَمَا
يَعْلَمُ تَأْوِيلَهُ إِلَّا اللَّهُ وَالرَّاسِخُونَ فِي الْعِلْمِ يَقُولُونَ ءَأَمَّنَّا بِإِيهِ كُلِّ مَنْ عِنْدَ رَبِّنَا وَمَا
يَذَّكَّرُ إِلَّا أُولُو الْأَلْبَابِ

- He it is Who has revealed the Book to you; some of its verses are decisive, they are the basis of the Book, and others are allegorical; then as for those in whose hearts there is perversity they follow the part of it which is allegorical, seeking to mislead and seeking to give it (their own) interpretation. but none knows its interpretation except Allah, and those who are firmly rooted in knowledge say: We believe in it, it is all from our Lord; and none do mind except those having understanding.
- Most of the verses of the Quran are clear and decisive. There is no ambiguity in them. They are known as the *muhkamat*.
- The *mutashabihat* are the verses which have been composed in subtle and profound diction and style. They carry implications other than the literal meanings, and therefore, are capable of giving different significations.
- It is clear from verse 3:7 that the Holy Quran itself is not sufficient for us because our simple minds cannot comprehend the *mutashabihat* verses. The implications of these

verses can only be explained by those who are ‘firmly rooted in knowledge’. These are none other than the Ahlul Bayt (as).

- The Holy Quran is not enough for us; otherwise there would be no need to send the Holy Prophet.
- Imam Ali said: “Truly when a wayfarer succeeds in making his wisdom alive and in letting his self die – his body becomes gradually weaker and thinner his heaviness turning into slimness. A Divine illumination whose manifestation was intermittent becomes clearly visible for him thus, making his path clearly brightened guiding and moving him through it; passing through various gates (of asceticism) he eventually reaches to the permanent abode of prosperity and with a tranquil and contented heart places his feet in a place of ease and comfort. Because, he had utilized his reason properly and had made his Creator pleased.” [Nahjul Balagah]
- In verse 32:7-9, Allah swt says:

الَّذِي أَحْسَنَ كُلَّ شَيْءٍ خَلَقَهُ وَبَدَأَ خَلْقَ الْإِنْسَانِ مِنْ طِينٍ
ثُمَّ جَعَلَ نَسْلَهُ مِنْ سُلَالَةٍ مِّنْ مَّاءٍ مَّهِينٍ
ثُمَّ سَوَّاهُ وَنَفَخَ فِيهِ مِنْ رُّوحِهِ وَجَعَلَ لَكُمُ السَّمْعَ وَالْأَبْصَارَ
وَالْأَفْئِدَةَ قَلِيلًا مَّا تَشْكُرُونَ

- Who made all things good which He created, and He began the creation of man from clay, then He made his seed from a draught of despised fluid; then he fashioned him and breathed into him of his spirit; and appointed for you hearing and sights and hearts small thanks give ye.”
- Grave doesn’t have snakes but we bring our own snakes in the grave.
- Once a father told his son: “Life is like an echo. If you do good then good will come back to you but if you do bad then bad will come back to you.”
- The best clothing is the dress of taqwa.
- To increase your concentration in salat one should imagine that it is the last salat that s/he is going to pray.

Tafseer Class - Notes
Friday, 25 April 2008

- There are a number of obstacles one may face in his spiritual journey upon the road of perfection.
- 1. The first obstacle is incompetence. A heart contaminated and darkened by sinning cannot become a center for the illumination of Divine light.
- 2. The second obstacle is worldly attachments. Worldly attachments prevent a human from movement and migration towards the Almighty. Imam Sadiq (as) said: “The love of world is the root of all evils.” [Bihar al-Anwar, vol. 73, p-90]
- 3. The third obstacle is the obedience of passions. Whims and passions continuously pull the heart from one direction to another one, thus, never allowing him the opportunity to have a union with the Almighty and developing some affection for Him. Imam Ali said: “The bravest person is the one who could dominate over the passions of his self.” [Bihar al-Anwar, vol. 70, p. 76]
- 4. The fourth obstacle is overeating. With a stomach full of food how could one have a mood of worshipping and supplication? Imam Sadiq (as) said: “Allah considers overeating as something indecent.” [Wasail, vol. 16, p. 407]
- 5. The fifth obstacle is unnecessary talks. Because of excessive talking a person’s thoughts become scattered and disturbed and therefore cannot pay attention towards Allah. Imam Ali said: “The more one achieves perfection of reason the less he talks.” [Bihar al-Anwar, vol. 71, p. 290]
- 6. The sixth obstacle is Love for self (Hubbe-Zat). Without migrating from the positions of love for essence or love for self, a person would never be able to witness the unique and unparallel beauty of the Lord of Glory and Majesty.
- 7. The seventh obstacle is indecisiveness. Indecisiveness and lack of determination prevents a person from starting his deeds.
- The hearts presence in prayer cannot be overemphasized. No sooner a person starts his prayer Satan suddenly whispers in his heart pulling him from one side to another, and continuously engaging him into all sorts of thoughts and memories. It is thus important that we pay proper attention to our prayers and not let the worldly thoughts interfere us during our meeting with the Almighty.

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.