

Ashre Zaynabiyya 1435

Lecture 4, Wednesday 18th December 2013

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وَلْتَكُنْ مِنْكُمْ أُمَّةٌ يَدْعُونَ إِلَى الْخَيْرِ وَيَأْمُرُونَ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَيَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ ۚ وَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُونَ {104}

[Shakir 3:104] And from among you there should be a party who invite to good and enjoin what is right and forbid the wrong, and these it is that shall be successful.

- We want to analyse the aims and objectives of the mission of imam
- We need to understand this so we can engage in azadari how we are supposed to commemorate it.

Imam wanted reformation within the ummah of his grandfather.
He achieved this by amr bil maaruf and nahi anil munkar.

Sometimes we forget our aim for this commemoration

- In Islam even if someone does something good, but it is done for the wrong purpose then it would be questionable.
- Islam is not a religion only but is a way of life. It promotes free thinking.
- Islam tells us never do anything just because other people have been doing it

In the Quran majority has been seen as being in error.

Some of the arguments the past nations used was that they were following their ancestors.

قَالَتْ رَسُولُهُمْ أَيْيَ اللَّهِ شَكَّ فَاطِرِ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضِ ۖ يَدْعُوكُمْ لِيَغْفِرَ لَكُمْ مِنْ ذُنُوبِكُمْ وَيُخَوِّضَكُمْ إِلَىٰ أَجَلٍ مُّسَمًّى ۖ قَالُوا إِنْ أَنْتُمْ إِلَّا بَشَرٌ مِثْلُنَا تُرِيدُونَ أَنْ تَصُدُّونَا عَمَّا كَانَ يَعْبُدُ آبَاؤُنَا فَأَثْبِتُوا فَتُونَا بِسُلْطَانٍ مُبِينٍ {10}

[Shakir 14:10] Their messengers said: Is there doubt about Allah, the Maker of the heavens and the earth? He invites you to forgive you your faults and to respite you till an appointed term. They said: You are nothing but mortals like us; you wish to turn us away from what our fathers used to worship; bring us therefore some clear authority.

Similarly:

وَإِذَا قِيلَ لَهُمْ اتَّبِعُوا مَا أَنْزَلَ اللَّهُ قَالُوا بَلَا نَتَّبِعُ مَا أَلْفَيْنَا عَلَيْهِ آبَاءَنَا ۖ أَوَلَوْ كَانَ آبَاؤُهُمْ لَا يَعْقِلُونَ شَيْئًا وَلَا يَهْتَدُونَ {170}

[Shakir 2:170] And when it is said to them, Follow what Allah has revealed, they say: Nay! we follow what we found our fathers upon. What! and though their fathers had no sense at all, nor did they follow the right way.

وَأِنْ تُطِيعُوا أَكْثَرَ مَنْ فِي الْأَرْضِ لَيُضِلُّوكَ عَنْ سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ ۚ إِنْ يَتَّبِعُونَ إِلَّا الظَّنَّ وَإِنْ هُمْ إِلَّا يَخْرُصُونَ {116}

[Shakir 6:116] And if you obey most of those in the earth, they will lead you astray from Allah's way; they follow but conjecture and they only lie.

Here Allah tells us not to be swayed by the majority of people.

- We are here to honour the goals of the mission of imam

He used 2 tools:

1. Amr bil maaruf
2. Nahi anil munkar

His tools should be our tools.

Amr bil Maaruf and Nahi anil munkar are on the same list of Furu e deen as Salaah and Sawm. This promotes its importance, many times we forget these two.

Allah tells us:

وَلْتَكُنْ مِنْكُمْ أُمَّةٌ يَدْعُونَ إِلَى الْخَيْرِ وَيَأْمُرُونَ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَيَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ ۚ وَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمُ الْمُفْلِحُونَ {104}

[Shakir 3:104] And from among you there should be a party who invite to good and enjoin what is right and forbid the wrong, and these it is that shall be successful.

وَلَا تَكُونُوا كَالَّذِينَ تَفَرَّقُوا وَاخْتَلَفُوا مِنْ بَعْدِ مَا جَاءَهُمُ الْبَيِّنَاتُ ۚ وَأُولَٰئِكَ لَهُمْ عَذَابٌ عَظِيمٌ {105}

[Shakir 3:105] And be not like those who became divided and disagreed after clear arguments had come to them, and these it is that shall have a grievous chastisement.

First step we need to do, to achieve this is to be united

كُنْتُمْ خَيْرَ أُمَّةٍ أُخْرِجَتْ لِلنَّاسِ تَأْمُرُونَ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَتَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ وَتُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ ۚ وَلَوْ آمَنَ أَهْلُ الْكِتَابِ لَكَانَ خَيْرًا لَهُمْ ۚ مِنْهُمْ الْمُؤْمِنُونَ وَأَكْثَرُهُمُ الْفَاسِقُونَ {110}

[Shakir 3:110] You are the best of the nations raised up for (the benefit of) men; you enjoin what is right and forbid the wrong and believe in Allah; and if the followers of the Book had believed it would have been better for them; of them (some) are believers and most of them are transgressors.

- Reason why we are the best ummah is because we have been tasked with this mission

Allamah tabrasi says in Majma al bayaan

Allah pairs Amr bil Maaruf and Nahi anil munkar with iman, To show how intimately connected they are.

وَالْمُؤْمِنُونَ وَالْمُؤْمِنَاتُ بَعْضُهُمْ أَوْلِيَاءُ بَعْضٍ ۚ يَأْمُرُونَ بِالْمَعْرُوفِ وَيَنْهَوْنَ عَنِ الْمُنْكَرِ وَيُقِيمُونَ الصَّلَاةَ وَيُؤْتُونَ الزَّكَاةَ وَيُطِيعُونَ اللَّهَ وَرَسُولَهُ ۚ أُولَٰئِكَ سَيَرْحَمُهُمُ اللَّهُ ۗ إِنَّ اللَّهَ عَزِيزٌ حَكِيمٌ {71}

[Shakir 9:71] And (as for) the believing men and the believing women, they are guardians of each other; they enjoin good and forbid evil and keep up prayer and pay the poor-rate, and obey Allah and His Messenger; (as for) these, Allah will show mercy to them; surely Allah is Mighty, Wise.

This verse describes an idea visionary community. In this verse Allah placed Amr bil Maaruf and Nahi anil Munkar at the top of the list.

Imam hussayn commented on the verse:

'The reason why Allah placed the obligations at top of list because of His prior knowledge that if 2 obligations performed and discharged the way they are supposed to be, all other obligations will fall in place. It is through fulfilment of these 2 obligations, people are invited towards Islam. These are the greatest things we have for resisting tyrants and standing up to injustice...'

A man comes to Prophet and asks him:

'What are the best aspects in religion in sight of Allah'.

The Prophet replies:

'Al iman. Then sulatur rahim. Then Amr bil Maaruf and Nahiy anil Munkar'

He then asked:

'What are worst things in sight of Allah?'

The Prophet replied:

'Al shirk then severing ties. Then Amr bil Maaruf and Nahi anil Munkar'

The Prophet says: *'If you are every successful in dissuading a believer to do bad, Allah gives you the reward of 70 accepted hajj '*

The Prophet also says: *'Allah says to P. Musa. "Learn good things which earn my pleasure. Then teach them to others. It is my promise that I will illuminate your grave'*

The graves of ordinary people become lighted with salatul Wahshat.

But the graves of these people become lighted even if salatul wahshat is not recited upon them

The Prophet says: 'when a person dies his account is frozen except: Sadqah jariya, good teachings that you leave behind, and righteous offspring you leave behind who pray for you.'

Allah tells us in the Holy Quran:

الَّذِينَ يَسْمَعُونَ الْقَوْلَ فَيَتَّبِعُونَ أَحْسَنَهُ ۚ أُولَٰئِكَ الَّذِينَ هَدَاهُمُ اللَّهُ ۖ وَأُولَٰئِكَ هُمْ الْأُولَٰئَابُ {18}

[Shakir 39:18] Those who listen to the word, then follow the best of it; those are they whom Allah has guided, and those it is who are the men of understanding.

Prophet: 'A person is brought before Allah for reckoning. He will arrive at place and angels bring a sheer volume of amaal like mountains.

He will turn to Allah and say where did all this come from?

Allah will say- these are good teachings you left behind which people followed after your death'

'A believer cannot give his brother or sister a gift more than a precious advice that will benefit him'