



بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ

Nahj al-Balaghah

Lesson 1

Introduction to *Nahj al-Balaghah*

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- *Nahj al-Balaghah* consists of 242 sermons, 78 letters and 590 maxims (concise words of wisdom).
- *Ibn Abil-Hadid* (who is a Sunni scholar) remarks about *Nahj al-Balaghah*: “It is below the speech of the creator and above the speech of the creature.”
- *Nahj al-Balaghah* embeds new dimensions to human intellect, theology, history, politics, economics, etc., but Muslims have neglected this treasure.

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- This course is dedicated to *Nahj al-Balaghah*:
 1. To examine its content
 2. To examine its eloquence
- Note: *Nahj al-Balaghah* means ‘the path of eloquence’ and no book other than Quran (which is higher) matches it in eloquence.

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- *Sharif Razi* (*Mohammad bin Husain*) was a great scholar and poet who lived in Baghdad in the 4th century AH. He was the fifth descendent of Imam Al-Kadhim (as). His father was the head and protector of the Shia at the time and after him, *Sharif Razi* became in charge. Also, his brother *Sayyed Mortaza*, known as *Alam al-Huda* was a top jurist.



- Sharif *Razi* dedicated 17 to 20 years of his life to compile *Nahj al-Balaghah* from manuscripts and the like.

- The Importance of *Nahj al-Balaghah*

1. It represents the correct belief system
2. It contains the correct history
3. The touching profound admonishment

- Examples of the baffling eloquence of Imam Ali (as):

- Once, some people challenged the Imam (as) to bring a sermon without 'ا' (equivalent to 'A' and the most used letter) and he did.
- Once, some people challenged the Imam (as) to bring a sermon

without a dot (and half of the Arabic letters have dots) and he did.

Doubt: *Ibn Taimiyyah* considers all the book as '*Mursal*' (chain broken).

Answer:

- The words were so successive and widely circulated (*mutawatir*) as it is the case in Quran.
- Most of the sermons of *Nahj al-Balaghah* have many earlier sources. For example, *Kulaini* mentions about 40 speeches in the book of '*Kafi*' or *Jahedh* in '*Al-Bayan wa al-Tabyin*' and so on.