



بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Nahj al-Balagha

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Lesson: 12

Topic: Sermon #1: The Need for Having a Hujjah

Text: « وَ أَصْطَفَىٰ سُبْحَانَهُ مِنْ وَلَدِهِ أَنْبِيَاءَ أَخَذَ عَلَى الْوَحْيِ مِيثَاقَهُمْ، وَ عَلَى تَبْلِيغِ الرِّسَالَةِ أَمَانَتَهُمْ. »
« وَ لَمْ يُخْلِ اللَّهُ سُبْحَانَهُ خَلْقَهُ مِنْ نَبِيٍّ مُرْسَلٍ أَوْ كِتَابٍ مُنْزَلٍ أَوْ حُجَّةٍ لَازِمَةٍ أَوْ مَحَجَّةٍ قَائِمَةٍ »

« يُخْلِ » : means to empty

« لم يُخل »: technically: (negative) not to empty; meaning: not to leave you without.
A beautiful eloquence.

« وَ لَمْ يُخْلِ اللَّهُ سُبْحَانَهُ خَلْقَهُ مِنْ نَبِيٍّ مُرْسَلٍ »

Allah did not leave his creation without a *Nabi who is mursal*.

The difference between «نبي» and «مُرْسَل»:

- «نبي» means a prophet; it comes from نَبَأ (naba') and literally means "news"; because a Nabi receives revelation (news) from God.

Types of prophets:

1. Nabi: No official message for the whole of humanity; most prophets were so.
2. Rasul: The one who carries a *risalah (message)*, e.g., has books.

Allah says in the Quran that He won't leave a nation without a Rasul. Imam is echoing that.

« أَوْ كِتَابٍ مُنْزَلٍ »

God doesn't leave the ummah without a Book.

« أَوْ حُجَّةٍ لَازِمَةٍ »

Or binding proof.

Hujjah means proof and evidence. Any proof God uses to guide humanity is called *hujjah*.

God's system: *Hujjah* should come in human form. So that no one has *hujjah* on the Day of Judgement against God, we call our Imams God's *hujjahs*.

Why are the Imams called *the Proof (Hujjah) of God*?

Hadiths indicate:

- If it weren't for the *Hujjah of God*, the earth would cease to exist. (لولا الحجّة)
(لساخت الأرض بأهلها) Bihar al-Anwar, vol. 57, pg. 213.



Q. Why do we need physical proof on earth even if we don't have access to that proof?

A. For the system of God to be just, any power influencing you so you deviate must be counter-acted by another power acting on you to guide you: E.g., internal faculties of *nafs ammara* (evil soul) and *intellect*.

Q2. The Devil whispers (physically). Where is the *Hujjah* to counter-act?

- The *Hujjahs of God* have multiple roles. Their mere existence validates life's continuation, as mentioned in the Quran. The Prophets and Imams carry the full intellect. According to hadiths, the most beloved creation is the intellect.
- What gives value to the universe is the presence of an intellect that perceives the greatness of God and worships God.
- As Satan whispers to us, God puts positive thoughts in you through Imams (by inspiration).

« أَوْ مَحَجَّةٍ قَائِمَةٍ »

Or a clear way

Q. Where is the *Hujjah* (proof of God) for the isolated populations?

- They still have an intellect, an internal compass that allows them to see the basics of right and wrong. Based on how much their intellect shows them, they will be judged. (Quran: 4:97)
- Exception: "المستضعفين" those who have weakness in their intellect. They will be entitled to the mercy of God: Allah will forgive them or retest them on the Day of Judgment.

The 2nd point regarding God's *hujjah* and prophets:

« رُسُلٌ لَا تَقْصُرُ بِهِمْ قَلَّةٌ عَدَدِهِمْ وَلَا كَثْرَةُ الْمُكَذِّبِينَ لَهُمْ »

The small number of these messengers never made them fall short of their responsibilities...

- None of God's prophets ever gave up. This in itself shows they are from God.
- Prophet Noah's story. After many years, only a few numbers (80 in some hadiths) followed him. His nation's trials were very difficult, because of which many lost their faith. Imam al-Sadiq (as) said this will happen for the Shia during the occultation age.
- Therefore, one defining feature of their prophethood is that the small numbers never made them have any shortcomings.



« مِنْ سَابِقِ سُمِّي لَهُ مِنْ بَعْدِهِ أَوْ غَابِرٍ عَرَفَهُ مَنْ قَبْلَهُ »

The prophets would tell their people and community the name and attributes of the following prophet as Prophet Isa (as) did for Prophet Muhammad (s).

« وَإِذْ قَالَ عِيسَى ابْنُ مَرْيَمَ يَا بَنِي إِسْرَائِيلَ إِنِّي رَسُولُ اللَّهِ إِلَيْكُمْ مُصَدِّقًا لِمَا بَيْنَ يَدَيَّ مِنَ التَّوْرَةِ وَمُبَشِّرًا بِرَسُولٍ يَأْتِي مِنْ بَعْدِي اسْمُهُ أَحْمَدُ »

- Jesus clearly mentions Prophet Muhammad in his prophecies. (61:6)
- A current Bible reference shows that Jesus announces Prophet Muhammad as the coming prophet: New Testament: Gospel of John, chapter 14, verses 15 – 18.

Paraclete (*paracletus in Greek*) is the word used in the original language Gospel. Translated into: comforter, the advocate, the counselor
The mainstream Christian interpretation: Jesus foretold about the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost.

Objection: Paraclete cannot be the Holy Spirit for two reasons:

1. The way Jesus describes this Paraclete, he has not come yet; in different places, Jesus has talked about the Holy Spirit, so he was known.
2. In John 14:16, “and I will pray to the Father, and he shall give you *another Comforter*.” It means somebody with a similar position to Jesus after him. Who is that? Can it be the Holy Spirit or God? They were already there.

- All these are indications that Prophet Isa did give news about the one who would come after him. However, the Bible has been distorted over time; but there’s still evidence.
- Jesus talks 1st about another one; 2nd: this other will come after his departure.
- Many people found their way to Prophet Muhammad through the descriptions they found in their scriptures, like Salman the Persian.