

Responsibility 70: Purification of the Soul

The purification of the soul is another responsibility and while traversing this path, the believers must strive to acquire knowledge, ma'rifah and complete faith. In addition, the believers must seek to clothe themselves with the noble humanistic traits.

They must strive to be the people of taqwa and wara' and keep away from all types of spiritual pollutants and through this, emulate their Imam and group themselves with him.

In reality, this is one of the most important responsibilities which the true believers have, whereas everything mentioned up to this point and those which will be mentioned later on, all return back to this responsibility.

Therefore, the first responsibility is the purification of the soul¹ and to travel spiritually towards Allah.

Imam Ja'far b. Muhammad as-Sadiq (as) has said:

مَنْ سَرَّهُ أَنْ يَكُونَ مِنْ أَصْحَابِ الْقَائِمِ فَلْيَنْتَظِرْ وَلْيَعْمَلْ بِالْوَرَعِ وَ مَحَاسِنِ الْأَخْلَاقِ وَ هُوَ مُنْتَظَرٌ

“A person who would like to be among the companions of al-Qa'im (ajtf) should be in a state of waiting and perform all of his actions with piety and with the most beautiful etiquette and only then, will one be counted as being in a state of waiting.”²

Imam Muhammad b. 'Ali al-Baqir (as) has said:

فَاعِينُوا بِوَرَعٍ وَ اجْتِهَادٍ...

“...So then assist (us) through piety and struggle.”³

Imam al-Mahdi (ajtf) wrote the following:

فَمَا يَحْبِسُنَا عَنْهُمْ إِلَّا مَا يَنْصِلُ بِنَا مِمَّا نَكْرَهُهُ وَ لَا تُؤْتِرُهُ مِنْهُمْ وَ اللَّهُ الْمُسْتَعَانُ وَ هُوَ حَسْبُنَا وَ نِعْمَ الْوَكِيلُ

“Nothing prevents us from them (our followers) but their coming to us with that (action) which we detest, and we do not like this from them; and Allah is the only one from whom help is sought and He is Sufficient for us! The most Excellent trustee!”^{[4](#)}

In the letter which was written to Shaykh al-Mufid, Imam al-Mahdi (ajtf) stated:

وَلَوْ أَنَّ أَشْيَاعَنَا، وَفَقَّهُمُ اللَّهُ لِبَطَاعَتِهِ، عَلَى اجْتِمَاعٍ مِنَ الْقُلُوبِ فِي الْوَفَاءِ بِالْعَهْدِ عَلَيْهِمْ لَمَا تَأَخَّرَ عَنْهُمْ الْيَمْنُ بِلِقَائِنَا وَ لَتَعَجَّلَتْ لَهُمُ السَّعَادَةُ بِمُشَاهَدَتِنَا عَلَى حَقِّ الْمَعْرِفَةِ

“And if our followers, may Allah make them successful in obeying Him, were united with their hearts in fulfilling the promise that is upon them, there would be no delay for them from the good fortune of meeting us, and their happiness would be hastened by witnessing our advent with complete understanding.”^{[5](#)}

^{[1](#)}. There are many books written on the topic of the purification of the soul – of which the first and foremost is the noble Qur`an and principally, the main objective of the revelation of the Qur`an is for this purification of the soul and this was also the task of and the reason for the deputation of the prophets.

^{[2](#)}. al-Ghaybah of Nu`mani, pg. 200, no. 16

^{[3](#)}. al-Kafi, vol. 2, pg. 187, no. 5

^{[4](#)}. Biharul Anwar, vol. 53, pg. 177, sec. 31, no. 8

^{[5](#)}. Biharul Anwar, vol. 53, pg. 177

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