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Preface

This is the translation of sections from Martyr Mutahhari's book *Sayri dar Nahj al-balaghah*. This book consists of seven sections. In the first section the author discusses the two main characteristics of the *Nahj al-balaghah*; its literary excellence and its multidimensionality, quoted various opinions expressed about Imam Ali's eloquence in general and about the *Nahj al-balaghah* in particular.

In the second section, the author discusses the theological and metaphysical ideas propounded in the *Nahj al-balaghah* and compared them with the parallel notions familiar to the Muslim *mutakallimun* and philosophers.

The third section deals with *ibadah* (worship) and its various levels. The fourth section deals with Islamic Government and Social Justice. The fifth, dealing with the controversial issue of caliphate (*khilafah*) and the superior status of the Ahl al-Bayt (A), has been deleted in this translation.

The sixth and the seventh sections discuss the *Nahj al-balaghah's* ethical teachings, in particular the Islamic Concept of *zuhd* (abstinence); the meaning of the world (*dunya*), so often condemned in the *Nahj al-balaghah*; and the meaning of the contradiction between the world and the hereafter, which is also recurring theme.

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