



Lecture Summary – Thursday 28th August 2025

“Lady Fatima al-Ma’suma (sa) & the Role of Seeking Khayr (Istikhara)” – Sheikh Ali Abbas Malik

1. Lady Fatima al-Ma’suma (sa) – A Beacon of Knowledge

- Remembered as a guide and source of knowledge who continues to inspire.
- Qom is described as an “ocean of knowledge,” with scholars as captains steering people to safety.
- Not only the 14 Ma’sumeen (as), but also those trained by them carried guidance forward.
- Despite her modesty and seclusion, Lady Fatima al-Ma’suma (sa) influenced countless lives through her piety and teaching.
- Narrations highlight her intercession and her elevated rank, praised by both her father (Imam Musa al-Kazim as) and brother (Imam al-Ridha as).
- Her shrine in Qom remains a center of learning, spirituality, and devotion.

2. Lessons from Her Life

- Modesty and purity did not limit her ability to guide.
- Taught the balance of seeking knowledge and practicing faith.
- Her legacy demonstrates how women play vital roles in preserving and spreading Islam.
- Her journey towards her brother Imam al-Ridha (as) symbolizes sacrifice, devotion, and steadfastness.

3. The Concept of Istikhara (Seeking Goodness from Allah)

- Derived from Qur’anic principles: *“It may be that you dislike something while it is good for you, and love something while it is bad for you. Allah knows, and you do not know.”* (Q.2:216)
- Types of Istikhara:
 - Dua Istikhara: Supplication asking Allah to guide decisions.
 - Qur’an Istikhara: Seeking guidance by opening the Qur’an.
 - Tasbeeh/Paper method: Used after prayer and reflection.

- **Purpose:**
 - Not fortune-telling or predicting outcomes.
 - A way to entrust one's decisions to Allah after reflection and consultation.
 - Encourages humility, reliance on Allah, and submission to His will.
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4. Practical Points on Istikhara

- First, use intellect and seek advice (istisharah).
 - When uncertain, turn to istikhara for clarity.
 - Accept the result with trust—going against it shows distrust in Allah's wisdom.
 - Builds a stronger relationship with Allah by involving Him in daily choices.
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5. Closing Reflections

- Life is full of choices—reliance on Allah prevents regret.
 - The Ahlulbayt (as) teach balance: knowledge, consultation, and divine guidance.
 - Lady Fatima al-Ma'suma (sa)'s life is an example of sacrifice, modesty, and scholarship.
 - Imam al-Husayn (as) and Lady Zaynab (sa) remind us that true faith means seeing beauty even in trials: *"I saw nothing but beauty."*
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Key Takeaway:

- Seek knowledge
- Practice humility
- Entrust all decisions to Allah through dua, reflection, consultation, and istikhara.
- Lady Fatima al-Ma'suma (sa) stands as a shining example of guidance, purity, and devotion.