



Lecture Summary – Thursday 4th September 2025

The Best of Khayr – Sheikh Ali Abbas Malik

1. Introduction: The Concept of Istikhāra (Seeking Guidance from Allah)

- Istikhāra means to seek goodness or guidance from Allah when facing decisions.
- It is not just a ritual but a process that should become part of a believer's daily mindset.
- It emphasizes dependence on Allah rather than solely trusting one's own desires or logic.

2. Different Levels of Decision-Making

- **First level:** Rational analysis – weighing pros and cons with the intellect.
- **Second level:** Consulting others for advice (istishāra).
- **Third level:** Seeking divine direction (istikhāra) when choices remain unclear.

3. Human Attachment to Wealth and Desires

- The Qur'an mentions mankind's strong love for wealth, which can sometimes misguide them.
- Wealth can be both a blessing and a test:
 - It may bring barakah (divine blessing) when used correctly.
 - It may lead one away from Allah if misused.
- Example: A companion of the Prophet who once gave generously but later became attached to wealth, losing the spirit of giving.

4. Trials and Tests from Allah

- Allah tests believers in both hardship (poverty, sickness) and ease (wealth, comfort).
- Sometimes Allah withholds wealth to protect His servant from straying.
- Death and difficulties are also seen as means of purification before meeting Allah.

5. Zuhd (Detachment from Worldly Excess)

- Imam al-Sādiq (a) taught that all goodness is gathered in one house, and the key to it is *zuhd* (detachment from worldly excess).
- Zuhd does not mean abandoning work or responsibility; rather, it means not being consumed by material pursuits.
- Example: A narration where Imam 'Alī (a) worked hard in the heat of the day, showing balance between effort and detachment.

6. Example of Imam ‘Alī (a)

- Known as the most ascetic of people despite being the Caliph.
- Taught how to conduct business with honesty and fairness while prioritizing the hereafter.
- His life embodied reliance on Allah and service to humanity over worldly gain.

7. Supplications and Dependence on Allah

- The lecture referenced supplications from the Ahlulbayt (a) asking Allah to:
 - Enter them into every goodness given to Prophet Muhammad (s) and his family.
 - Protect them from every evil from which the righteous sought protection.
- This shows believers should align their prayers with the prayers of the pious.

8. Trials of the Prophets and Imams

- Great personalities like Prophet Muhammad (s), Imam ‘Alī (a), Imam Ḥasan (a), and Imam Ḥusayn (a) faced immense challenges.
- Their lives remind us that true success lies in steadfastness and loyalty to Allah’s path, even if it goes against societal norms.

9. The Concept of Wilāyah (Divine Authority)

- Qur’an (Surah al-Kahf 18:44) emphasizes that true guardianship belongs only to Allah.
- Aligning with Allah’s wilāyah ensures the best outcome in both this world and the next.

10. Conclusion

- Believers must strive to:
 - Consult Allah in all decisions through istikhāra and du‘ā.
 - Detach from excessive love of wealth and materialism.
 - Accept trials as a form of purification.
 - Seek barakah (divine blessing) by following the examples of the Prophet (s) and Ahlulbayt (a).
- Ultimately, success is found in aligning one’s choices with the pleasure of Allah, not personal desire.