

## Nahj ul Balagha

### Analysis of the 'Sermons of Sayyiduna Ali رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ'

Adapted from: Kitab Al-Muraja'at Dirasah Hadithiyyah Naqdiyyah

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Nahj ul Balagha is famous amongst the Shia masses as a book proven from Sayyiduna Ali رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ. They suffice on this fallacy, as they normally do with everything that is attributed to the twelve Imams. They see no need to study the chains of narration of the book and they do not verify whether its contents are emphatically proven from Sayyiduna Ali رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ.

There is no doubt that attribution of a book to any personality is not sufficient in establishing the reality of this ascription.

Compiler:

Ali Ibn Husayn Ibn Musa Al-Murtada. Imam Dhahabi رَحِمَهُ اللهُ says, 'He was born in 355 A.H, he is the compiler of the book 'Nahj ul Balagha'. The words of this book are attributed to Sayyiduna Ali رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ, there are no chains of narration for this, some of it is complete falsehood and it has some truth. However, there are fabrications in it which the Imam (Sayyiduna Ali رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ) would never utter. It has been said that his brother, Ar-Rida, compiled it.' He also said, 'He is accused of fabricating the book Nahj ul Balagha.' [Siyar A'lam an Nubala vol.17 p.589, Mizan Al-I'tidal vol.3 p.124]

Ibn Khallikan رَحِمَهُ اللهُ said, 'The people differ with regards to the book Nahj ul Balagha, a compilation of the statements of Sayyiduna Ali Ibn Abi Talib رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ, did he (Al-Murtada) compile it, or did his brother, Ar-Rida do so? It has also been said that it is not from the statements of Sayyiduna Ali رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ, but it is the statements of the one who compiled it and attributed to him (Sayyiduna Ali رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ), he is the one who fabricated it.' [Wafayat Al-A'yaan vol.3 p.313]

Anyway, whatever the case may be, Sayyiduna Ali رَضِيَ اللهُ عَنْهُ passed away in 40 A.H, Ar-Rida passed away in 406 A.H, and Al-Murtada passed away in 436 A.H. The time period between the demise of the compiler or compilers exceeds three hundred years!

That leaves us with a case of a book without any standing or weight in terms of historical authenticity and it cannot be considered a source in any religious ruling, let alone a principle of belief.

Commentary:

Sunnis and Shi'is often hear the commentary of Nahj ul Balagha quoted side by side. The most famous of these is the commentary of Abdul Hamid Ibn Abi Al-Hadeed Ash-Shi'i Al-Mu'tazili. He wrote it at the bequest of the Minister Ibn Al-Alqami, the person who was the cause of millions of Muslims being killed in Baghdad at the hands of the Tartars, as he made it easy for them to enter Baghdad.

Khānsārī says, 'He wrote it for the library of the minister Mu'ayyad ad-Deen Muhammad Ibn Al-Alqami.' [Raudat ul Jannat vol.5 p.20, 21]

Now that the background and status of this compilation of fabrications has become clear, every Muslim and thinking Shia is encouraged to stay away from it. May Allah سُبْحَانَهُ وَتَعَالَى guide us to see the light of truth. Amīn.