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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Munyat al-Murid – Lesson 47

Summary

Sheikh Mustafa Akhound

Topic: Cleansing the Soul

The Centrality of Tazkiyah for the Seeker of ‘Ilm

The lecture entitled Cleansing the Soul, the First Priority for a Scholar of Religion highlights the centrality of tazkiyat al-nafs in the life of a seeker of ‘ilm. It is deemed reprehensible for a scholar (‘ālim or faqīh) to engage extensively in secondary subjects while neglecting the purification of his soul and seeking the riḍā Allāh (satisfaction of God).

A Powerful Parable: The Hajj Pilgrim and His Provisions

The parable of the faqīh who limits himself to laws and formal sciences resembles the traveler to Mecca who, instead of embarking on the ḥajj, confines himself to repairing his water bag and sandals. While these provisions are necessary, they are not the essence of the journey; similarly, jurisprudential detail without tazkiya cannot make one a true servant of God.

The Limits of Jurisprudential Knowledge Alone

Knowledge of common laws (aḥkām) in jurisprudence is important, but by itself it cannot save a person. Such sciences are only a prelude (muqaddima) to the higher aim of attaining God’s nearness. Even mastery of



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fiqh and the transmitted sayings of the Prophet (S) and the Imams (AS), without awareness of essential spiritual duties, leaves the scholar deficient.

A Deeper Pitfall: The Allure of Abstract Philosophy

The situation of those who devote themselves exclusively to philosophy is even more precarious. They spend their lives analyzing metaphysical abstractions—such as whether wujūd (existence) is the essence of beings—while neglecting the purpose for which they were created. This is likened to servants in a king’s palace who, instead of fulfilling their duties, become absorbed in admiring the walls and ceilings, thereby failing their master.

The Integrated Path: Illuminating the Self to Guide Others

True scholarship, therefore, requires integrating knowledge with tazkiyat al-nafs so that the light of guidance illuminates not only others but also the scholar’s own heart.