



IMAM SADIQ peace be upon him
ONLINE SEMINARY

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

Munyat al-Murid – Lesson 48

Summary

Sheikh Mustafa Akhound

Topic: Cleansing the Soul (2)

The Deception of Outer Decoration and Inner Filth

The lesson entitled Cleansing the Soul, the First Priority for a Scholar of Religion emphasizes the danger of neglecting tazkiyat al-nafs in pursuit of knowledge. Scholars who immerse themselves in secondary disciplines while leaving their souls impure are compared to hosts who decorate the entrance of their homes for a king while leaving filth in the doorway—an act of self-deception inspired by Shayṭān.

Parables of Futility: Weeds, Illness, and Superficial Treatment

Several parables illustrate this danger. One example likens such a scholar to a farmer whose crop is overtaken by weeds. Rather than uprooting them, he cuts them superficially, allowing the roots to strengthen and destroy his harvest. Another analogy is of a man with a skin disease who applies cream externally but refuses to take the prescribed internal medicine; the disease spreads, eventually leading to collapse. These images highlight that focusing only on appearances while neglecting inner reform (iṣlāḥ al-bāṭin) is futile.



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The Heart: The Center of Reform and Reliance on God

The center of moral vices lies in the heart; without purification, even acts of worship become defective. True reform and success rest solely with Allah, al-Raḥmān al-Raḥīm, who is more generous than all generous ones. Hence, reliance (tawakkul) upon God and employing knowledge with sincerity are indispensable.

The Ultimate Duty: Acting Upon Knowledge (‘Amal bi’l-‘Ilm)

The duties of both teachers and students are summarized as ‘amal bi’l-‘ilm (putting knowledge into practice). Knowledge is not an end in itself but a tool for attaining noble character and avoiding indecency. As narrated from Imām al-Ṣādiq (AS), understanding (fiqh) is not gained merely by attending many classes but is a light that Allah casts into the hearts of those He wishes to guide.