

Better Than Alchemy



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“BETTER THAN ALCHEMY”

On a visit to Mashad, Ayatullah Khomeini when he was some 35 years old, met the scholar and Ayatullah Hasanali Isfahani (Nakhudaki) [1279/1862 – 1361/1942] in the courtyard of Imam Al Ridha (pbuh). He took the opportunity to ask Ayatullah Nakhudaki a question, but the latter said to him, *“At the moment I am occupied in my worship, please wait for me near the grave of Hurr-e Amili and I will come looking for you myself.”*

After some time he came and asked what Ayatullah Khomeini wanted. Ayatullah Khomeini said to him, *“I swear to you by this Imam (pbuh), if you have the knowledge of alchemy, then teach it to us.”*

Ayatullah Nakhudaki did not deny that he had the knowledge of alchemy but instead asked, *“If I give you the secret of alchemy, and you are able to convert mountains and plains to gold, can you promise that you will use this knowledge appropriately and guard it and not abuse it?”*

Ayatullah Khomeini thought for a while and then admitted that he could not promise that.

When he heard this, Ayatullah Nakhudaki turned to him and said. *“Since you admit that you are unable to guard the knowledge of alchemy, I will teach you something even better than alchemy, and that is:*

After every wajib salat, recite *Ayatul Kursi* (2:255) once

Then recite the *tasbeeh of Sayyida Fatima* (pbuh) once

Then recite *Suratul Ikhlas* three times

Then recite *Salawat* three times

Then recite *three times the last part of the second and the third aya of Suratut Talaq*

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
اللَّهُ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا هُوَ الْحَيُّ الْقَيُّومُ
لَا تَأْخُذُهُ سِنَّةٌ وَلَا نَوْمٌ
لَهُ مَا فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ وَمَا فِي الْأَرْضِ
مَنْ ذَا الَّذِي يَشْفَعُ عِنْدَهُ إِلَّا بِإِذْنِهِ
يَعْلَمُ مَا بَيْنَ أَيْدِيهِمْ وَمَا خَلْفَهُمْ وَلَا يُحِيطُونَ بِشَيْءٍ مِّنْ
عِلْمِهِ إِلَّا بِمَا شَاءَ وَسِعَ كُرْسِيُّهُ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ
وَلَا يَئُودُهُ حِفْظُهُمَا وَهُوَ الْعَلِيُّ الْعَظِيمُ

Tasbeeh of Sayyida Fatima (pbuh)

34x Allahu Akber

33x Alhamdulillah

33x Subhanallah

1x La ilaha illallah

Suratul Ikhlas

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
قُلْ هُوَ اللَّهُ أَحَدٌ
اللَّهُ الصَّمَدُ
لَمْ يَلِدْ وَلَمْ يُولَدْ
وَلَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُ كُفُوًا أَحَدٌ

Salawat

اللَّهُمَّ صَلِّ عَلَى مُحَمَّدٍ وَآلِ مُحَمَّدٍ

Suratut Talaq – end of aya 2 and aya 3

وَمَنْ يَتَّقِ اللَّهَ يَجْعَلْ لَهُ مَخْرَجًا
وَيَرْزُقْهُ مِنْ حَيْثُ لَا يَحْتَسِبُ وَمَنْ يَتَوَكَّلْ عَلَى اللَّهِ فَهُوَ
حَسْبُهُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ بَالِغُ أَمْرِهِ قَدْ جَعَلَ اللَّهُ لِكُلِّ شَيْءٍ قَدْرًا

A little bit about Ayatullah Sahaykh Hasanali Isfahani (Nakhudaki)

1279/1862-1361/1942

From the age of 15 till the end of his life, he always fasted the three months of Rajab, Sha'ban and Ramadan.

His son reports: My father was ever ready to help people with their difficulties and questions, night or day. I said to him, "O Father, assign a specific time of the day for the people to approach you with their needs."

He replied, "In the eyes of God there is no morning or evening. (Laysa 'inda rabbina sabaahun walaa masa'a). It does not benefit a person who has dedicated himself to serve God's creatures to only attend to their needs at appointed times."

His advice to his son.....

I advise you my son as follows:

- Always pray your daily prayers exactly on time
- Work as hard as you can to help and meet the needs of the people. Do not be hesitant to take on what appears to be a difficult task, because when a man takes one step on the path of God, then God's help always follows.
- [His son asked, "But father, sometimes when you try to help others it results in blame and disgrace." He replied, "What could be better than suffering humiliation while serving God."]
- Never ignore the plight of the poor and destitute. In this manner, even if you have less, at least you are not accountable.
- Do not neglect Salatut Tahajjud and night prayers.....
- Study the religion to a level that you become free of the need to follow another scholar (taqleed).

[His son states, "It occurred to me that in that case, I would have to distance myself from social activity in order to have some spare time for self improvement, purification and study." However, as this thought passed my mind, my father stared at me and said, "Do not fall prey to useless thoughts – your progress and responsibility will only be realised by helping and serving God's creatures."

After saying all this, he said, "When Sunday morning comes, my affair will come to an end. If possible, give me the funeral bath (ghusl) and shroud (kafan) yourself, and then arrange for my burial." He also asked his friend Marhum Sayyid Murtaza Ru'ayn to keep some time free on the coming Sunday so that "after I have passed away, you can sit next to my head and recite the Qur'an for an hour." Just as he had predicted, he left the world on Sunday, 17 Sha'ban 1361 AH. He is buried in the old courtyard of the shrine of Imam Ridha (pbuh), at the same spot which he had indicated in his lifetime.



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