

Aims and Determination

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In the name of Allah the beneficent the merciful

**From the statement of his Excellency, the commander of
the Faithful** (peace be upon him):

*Beautiful aim and objective denotes the legitimate birth of its
owner.*

CHOOSE THE BEST AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

With little chance and the limited life we are having, we must abstain from going into the issues that waste our time and go towards important and vital issues that will secure this world and the next world for us.

Therefore our aims and objectives must be channeled towards most important and most vital issues and we must struggle in order to achieve that; because to engage ourselves with less important issues, we are forsaking the fundamental and valuable issues and we shall also be left behind from reaching the exalted aim of creation.

His Excellency, the Commander of the Faithful (*peace be upon him*) said:

Whoever engaged with less important issues forsakes the important ones.¹

By engaging with valueless and less important issues, you shall be left behind from reaching great and exalted aims and objectives. This is reality which the commander of the faithful (*peace be upon him*) has explained and expounded in a short statement so that the entire human being especially the youth should take lesson from it.

If human beings learned from this statement of the commander of the faithful (*peace be upon him*) definitely tremendous transformation shall take place in the present human society.

For the fact that our life is limited and we don't have the potentiality and power to encompass every thing, then we should spend our life with prestige in most important and vital issues and we should abstain from spending it by engaging in valueless issues which is part of devastation and dashing out of our valuable and expensive life.

¹ - Sharh Gurar al-Hikam volume : 5 page : 330.

In order to benefit from our life and engaging it in valuable and important issues, we should not engage our thinking and reflection in minor issues so that we will be able to achieve the best and exalted aims and objectives.

The commander of the faithful (*peace be upon him*) said:

Your thinking did not have the capability of going through everything, and then you should exhaust it with important issue.¹

YOU SHOULD FOCUS UPON THE OUTCOME OF YOUR AIM

In order to choose the best and most important aims and objectives, the conclusion and the outcome of your aims and objectives must be very clear and obvious. In this respect we must preplan and program our work base on our aim and we should completely be cognizant concerning our plan by deliberating and searching over it so that at the end it becomes clear to us.

In a situation whereby its conclusion is in accordance with the yardstick taken from the statement of the holy household of the Prophet (*peace be upon them*), we should strengthen our determination and aspiration in order to achieve it and we should desist from negligence and forgetfulness.

The holy Prophet (*peace be upon him and his progeny*) said:

If you determine to do any thing you should ponder over its conclusion and then you should not hesitate in doing it if it is good and you should not desist from doing it if it is bad.²

¹ - Sharh Gurar al-Hikam volume : 2 page : 606.

² - Bihar al-Anwar volume : 72 page : 342.

Base on this, at any moment you have checked and scrutinized the outcome of your intended work and you have detected the future to be good and splendid, you should immediately start it without waiting for tomorrow or the day after tomorrow so that one thing or the other will not prevent you from doing it, and you should benefit from the fruitful chance you are having. This is the way followed by the great people and you can also do that by following their foot step and course.

WHAT IS THE AIM AND OBJECTIVE OF CREATING HUMAN BEING?

As we have said earlier that human being must have aims and objectives in his life. In this respect, he must know the most exalted aims and objectives so that he can be able to choose the best out of it.

Cognizance with the mystery of creation of human being is able to be our guideline in order to make the reality obvious to us.

Almighty Allah in the Glorious Qur'an said:

{I did not created the jinn and the humans except that they may worship Me}¹

Nuru thaqalayn while commenting on this verse brought a narration from Imam Sadiq (peace be upon him):

Imam Husain bn Ali came out to his companions and said: O' people, indeed Allah whose remembrance is Almighty and Great has not created human being except to know Him, after knowing Him you worship Him, when you worship Him, you will be suffice from worshipping other than Him. A man stood up and said to him: O' the son of the Prophet, may my parent be sacrifice for you, what is cognizance of Allah? He said: it is for every people to know the leader of their time whose obedience is incumbent upon them.²

By concentrating on this holy verse and the narration we brought, it is obvious that aim and objective of creating human being and the jinn is to reach the rank of servitude and it will be not materialize except with cognizance of Almighty Allah and the person who is having the cognizance of Almighty Allah is he who has the knowledge of the status of the leader of the time (may Almighty Allah hasten his relief).

Then our responsibility this time is to recognize and know the Imam of the time and to be at the service of that great man; because Imam Sadiq (peace be upon him) in a statement has outlined the responsibility of

¹ - Suarh Zariyat: 56.

² - Tafseer Nur Thaqaalayn volume : 5 page : 122.

the entire enamored of the rank of guardianship and he has taught them and said:

Had it been I meet him (i.e. Imam Al-Mahdi) I will serve him so far I am alive.¹

By benefitting from the previous issues, in a situation whereby we reach the rank of servitude and have acquired the religious sciences we can then serve the Imam of the time *(May our soul be sacrifice for him)* in the best way so that we benefit from the unlimited sea of kindness of that holy existence and to be among the service men of that great man.

Verily, service to religion and Allah's proof of the time in any occasion is the path of those who has reached the stage of servitude. Like the types of Salman, Abu Zar, Miqdad and other exclusive companions of the holy household of the Prophet *(peace be upon them)* who has make used of their entire existence in order to serve the holy household of the Prophet and increase their successes because they have reach the stage of servitude to Almighty Allah.

Indeed this is the path of those who has obtained the aims and objectives of creation. You can also emulate and take their path so that it will not be scarce for you.

If you don't have aims in your life;

Apart from pottery you don't have treasure of this world.

¹ - Bihar al-Anwar volume : 51 page : 148.

WAYS OF REACHING ONES AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1 - To have hope in your aims and objectives

A lot of people wanted to reach great positions likewise they wanted valuable development in knowledge and sciences so that they can be among the influential great men in their society; they also like to guide their community towards immaterial and spiritual life.

In fact this wish is concealed inside a lot of individual's nature. But now that they doesn't know the mystery of success of the great men which has been registered by the history; they are not hopeful of reaching this great aspiration and they did not have any notion of this imagination.

By considering the lessons of human creation which we have learned from the school of thought of the holy household of the Prophet (*peace be upon him and his progeny*) and the luminous radiation which is life-giving guideline from those great men that is reflecting upon the hearts. We know this reality that the holy household of the Prophet (*peace be upon them*) has great aspiration, elevated and exalted aims and destination for the entire people and their friends and they have also call everyone towards it; likewise they have always warned them against despair and demoralization.

These great men did not only teach us in their statement and speeches rather they have taught us lessons about hope and aspiration through supplications. In this aspect they have ordered us to read the following on Fridays:

..... O' Allah make us among the closest ones who have get close to You.¹

¹ - Bihar al-Anwar volume : 90 page : 339.

This type of supplications gives lesson of hope to the entire people that feel abjection inside themselves; and it insert hope and aspiration of reaching valuable and exalted aims and objectives in the heart of entire enamored of the school of thought of the holy household of the Prophet (*peace be upon them*).

Notification about a point

Don't associate with those who are despair and hopeless, and those that have difference opinion with your decision. Because associating with them has effect in you and it also create despair, hopeless, failure in decision taking and also prevent you from reaching your aim and destination. But if you are forced to associate with such type of people, you should not divulge your aim and decision to them rather you should conceal it as a secret from them.

Some people are able to change other people's future through sneering and mockery likewise he prevent others like himself through despair from reaching their elevated and exalted aims and objectives and at the end he made them lack behind. These types of people prevent your development and with few words he is able to seize your success from you. In a nutshell your duty and responsibility is to recognize such type of people so that you would not be poisoned with their statements.

2- Role for Demand and Searching in order to Achieving aims and Objective

Among the greatest traps of Satan is to present before you the difficulty in things and impossibility of obtaining an elevated positions. The Satan with its temptations and tricks create doubt in human being that; is it possible to pass through this path with all these difficulties? Is it possible for the aim and the destination with all its tremendousness to reach its conclusion?

The Satan did not only engage in creating its temptation, the dangerous of misguidance and despair in you before commencing your activity rather sometimes it exit those who are already on the path from the path.

Therefore those who are seeking for great aims and objectives must be very careful and attentive that human beings are created in a form that if they bear hardships and difficulties for some time, with time the entire difficulties and hardships will change to be simple and easy as a result of its repetition they will be used to it even though it is very hard from the beginning.

Apart from all these Almighty Allah will make all the problems easy for those who are seeking for great aims especially those that have take and help the friends of the holy infallible household of the Prophet (*peace be upon them*). How many great and heavy issues which Almighty Allah has obviated for those seeking for great and tremendous aims?

The reality is one of these issues; because it is either bitter or heavy especially for those who are drawn into pollutions and follower of selfishness and satanic temptation. Definitely the truth is heavier before such type of people because truth did not comply with the demand of those people; but as for another group of people who are

after truth and reality and wanted to reach reality, the truth is weightless before them.

In this respect the commander of the faith *(peace be upon him)* said:

“Surely the entire truth and reality is heavy but Almighty Allah may make it lighter for those seeking for good and splendid out come”¹

We derived from this statement of the commander of the faithful *(peace be upon him)* that demanding is having an important role in lessening the problems. Those who have counted great aims and objectives to be difficult and deem it to be impossible to achieve are people who are not in the position of demanding and reaching great ambition.

Those who are at the position of demanding and having it in the back of their mind to achieve their demand has reached their destination and has also achieved their ambition, no matter how their demand is great and heavy, but for the fact that they are completely in the position of reaching their aims, the heaviness and difficulties turn and change to simplicity to the extent they did imagine how they have achieve and obtain their aims and objectives.

You should have the certainty that demanding, researching, inquiring for the lost item will end up in pleasure and happiness.

Base on this, in order to triumph and to attain great aims and objectives while requesting, one must search and puffed up so that the avenue for achieving that will be prepare for you.

Sitting aside, having imagination and hope, and seizing from requesting will not make person to reach his destination. Those who are triumph in reaching their hope and aspiration are those who search and request for it.

¹ - Nahjul Balagah: letter 53.

Those who are engaged in searching and requesting in order to reach their aim shall not be deprived even though they did not achieve all their demand but they will definitely achieve part of it. Meanwhile this in itself is a sign and an important outcome that is concealed in requesting.

In this respect the commander of the faithful (*peace be upon him*) said:

“Whoever seeks for something obtains all of it or part of it”¹

Base on this, it is better we chose the greatest and valuable aims and objectives and to engage in the path of searching and struggling in order to achieve the aim. In this aspect we will either completely achieve or reach our destination or we achieve part of what we are aiming at.

3- In the Service of Great Men

Reaching elevated and perfected rank is enjoyed in the school of thought of the holy household of the Prophet (*peace be upon them*). In this aspect there are a lot of admonitions, statement and guidelines that has been reported from the rightly guided leaders (*peace be upon them*).

Definitely if you implement one of these admonitions which were reported to us you will certainly enjoy better future, likewise to be in the company of great and self trained men who has achieved their great aims and objectives. It has been transmitted among the poem of Imam Sadiq (*peace be upon him*) that he says:

I enjoin you to be with great men and an elevate personality.²

¹ - Sharh Gurar al-Hukum volume : 5 page : 305.

² - Bihar al-Anwar volume : 47 page : 24.

Therefore seeing, sitting and being in the company of this type of people has impact in your thinking and behavior likewise it strengthens person's determination and leads him towards great aims and objectives. The elevated determination of those people creates strong determination in those whose determination are weak and it also awakening those that are not having aims and objectives.

Definitely staying and being in the presence of the great men will acquaint you with valuable aims and they kindled the light of reaching that stage and rank in you.

4- To Disagree with your Selfishness or to be on the Way of Reaching an Elevated Destinations

Person who wanted to achieve high and elevated aims and objectives must put aside weakness and crumbliness and likewise must bravely fight with selfishness.

The commander of the faithful *(peace be upon him)* said:

***Whoever wanted to attain high and an elevated ranks must defeat his desire.*¹**

This divine statement which came from the tongue of the owner of divine guardian, the commander of the faithful *(peace be upon him)* is a lesson for the entire human being that wanted to reach great, religious and spiritual ranks and also for those that are struggling to attain high and an elevated aims and objectives.

This heavenly commandment is a great message for the entire human beings especially the youth and the younger ones that have ambition for luminous future.

¹ - Gurar al-Hukum volume : 5 page : 394.

5- Recourse through the Holy Household of the Prophet (peace be upon them) in order to Reach Great Aims and Objectives

As we shall say, every human being needs three things before engaging in any good and admirable work:

- 1- Decision and determination.
- 2- The potentiality of implementing what you determine to do.
- 3- That Almighty Allah should help and grants him success.

If weakness occurred in any of these three issues, there will be set back in development and in implementation of any work. Meanwhile in order to obtain these three conditions and for its continuation till the aims and the objectives are achieved, one must take the holy household of the Prophet (peace be upon them) as means to Almighty Allah.

In the visitation of the commander of the faithful (peace be upon him) We read as follows:

“Through you (i.e. Imam Ali) I recourse to Almighty Allah in order to reach my destination”¹

Undoubtedly, we did not only need to obtain these conditions when commencing our work rather we always need to recourse to Almighty Allah through the leaders and Allah’s representatives on this world of existence till we reach our destination as they are the means of divine bounty upon us.

¹ - Bihar al-Anwar volume : 100 page : 332.

THE CONCLUSION OF THE DISCUSSION

Be cognizance of the best and highest aims and objectives in order to choose that and there must be existence of strong determination in order to reach the destination. We should try to abstain from people who are not determined and should go ahead in the company of those that are having high and elevated aims and objectives so that through this means you can specify the highest and worthy destination. In a situation whereby you are searching for the best aims and objectives, Almighty Allah the beneficent will definitely make the difficulties and the problems on your ways easy for you.

From now onward you must be very careful so that this colorful world should not divert you from your destination and should not make the mirage in front of you as water.

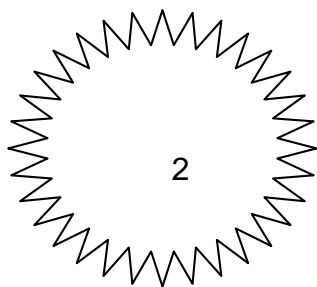
The aims and the objectives of creation of human being is worship and to be servitude to Almighty Allah and also to reach the rank and post of servitude. This shall not be materialized except when you are acquainted with the rank of Guardianship of the holy household of the Prophet (*peace be upon them*) and acquired divine sciences which its outcome is obtaining closeness and nearness to Almighty Allah.

Be certain that when you have obtain the rank of servitude and have acquired divine sciences; it is then you can serve better in the school of thought of the holy household of the Prophet (*peace be upon them*) especially the leader of the time (*may our soul be sacrifice for him*). In fact this is the most precious way of going closer and nearer to Almighty Allah. You should implement this method in your aims and objectives and struggle towards it in order to be closer and nearer to Almighty Allah.

Till when the root of your life is at the surface;

Your fortune is at the verge of the tower;

*While your life is in the shell of this existing sea;
Meanwhile the shell's door of life is ones aim and ambition.*



STRONG DETERMINATION AND EXALTED AMBITON

FROM THE SAYINGS OF HIS EXCELLENCY, THE COMMANDER
OF THE FAITHFUL (*PEACE BE UPON HIM*):

*NOTHING RASES HUMAN BEING LIKE HIS AMBITION AND NOTHING
LET HIM DOWN LIKE HIS SELFISH DESIRE.*

THE VALUE OF DETERMINATION

Human being must know himself likewise the potentialities, power and the strength Almighty Allah the Most Merciful has bestowed in his essence so that little by little he will be taken from the stage of necessity to active stage.

Though one of the conceal potentialities in human being is the power of determination. Indeed if human being is able to train and strengthen his determination he will be able to solve his material and spiritual problems and likewise that of his societal problems. Therefore determination is a potentiality that is full of wonderful and power.

Somebody who has purified himself from impurities, his determination will also be purified and unadulterated and he will do admirable and splendid works in the ways of Almighty Allah. In this respect, if person has trained his determination and his determination has become like iron, he will be able to make use of this potentiality to revive religion and to draw human being's attention towards the school of thought of human renovators, the holy household of the Prophet (*peace be upon them*) and likewise he will be able to render services to the people.

By glancing through the history of human being, you shall envisage that the famous men are the people who enjoyed great and elevated ambition and has rendered services to other people through that means.

Those people that are having weak spirit and ambition or those that were been afflicted with meanness doctrine never able to achieve great aims and objectives. Therefore we should put meanness doctrine aside and desist from weakening our soul and spirit.

Try to strengthen your determination and you should have the certainty that Almighty Allah who has given success to the great

religious men is also able to make you successful and also let you to reach your destination.

SINCERITY BEFORE DECISION AND DETERMINATION

The power that motivate and move you towards any work before doing it must be known to you. Is it a divine power that is motivating you towards your aims and objectives or your motivation is that of satanic one? Or it is your sensual factor which has pushes you towards the way you have chosen or not?

In order not to be afflicted with sensual motivation and satanic temptation and for these two motivations not to take place in your work, it is incumbent before any decision and determination to empty your mind from all sorts of temptation and motivation that is not divine and then take your decision for the pleasure of Almighty Allah for the work you wanted to do.

Imam Sadiq (*peace be upon him*) in this respect said:

“If you wanted to perform Pilgrimage, you should empty your mind for Almighty Allah before your decision for any engagement; likewise you should empty your mind from any obstacle that may prevent you”.¹

Even though this order and statement was issued in regards to Pilgrimage but it is a general guidelines for everyone that wanted to attain and achieve any great ambition.

In a nutshell, before commencing any program you should release yourself from worldly aspiration and should put only Almighty Allah into consideration, and then start your deliberation before implementing your aims and objectives.

¹ - Bihar al-Anwar volume : 99 page : 124.

You should give Direction and Course to your Determination and Decision

It is what we are having in mind that has impact in our life and not what we mentioned or uttered with our tongue! Because our hope and aspirations is deep inside our mind and thought and likewise the doctrine we are having make some transformation in our life and not what we manifested which we did not belief upon.

A lot of people normally specify their aims and ambitions and they always talk about it but they didn't follow it up. In this respect they didn't in any form detect it but they were only sufficed with description of pleasure! But in opposition to this are some people that with time they achieve their ambition and you will find reality in all what they are saying and likewise they are successful in attaining their deep-rooted hope and ambition.

In fact why some people are like this? And there are some other people even though they have struggled but they will never attain their aims and ambitions till the end of their life?! Undoubtedly that every human being enjoyed favor of determination and they are able to reach their ambition through it; because even some people whom we taught were not bestowed with determination or their determination has seize to exist, are all having determination.

For example the addicted people whom we think are not having determination in terms of using intoxicated substances and that they have loses and dashed out all the power of taking decision, but they knew how to get their intoxicated substances and with strong determination in order to get the substances by all means.

The same applies to a lazy and sluggard people that was imprisoned and was taken to work outside the prison as they are ready to run away no matter how the plan is difficult and dangerous.

Therefore all these types of peoples are bestowed with determination but their determination is not having direction. Indeed these people's determination need to be given direction and to be guided towards right path in order to make use of it in an authentic way and not in the path of getting intoxicated substances and running away from work and struggle.

Definitely whoever has given direction to his determination has provided means and avenue for development for himself.

YOU SHOULD POSSESS AN EXALTED AMBITION

If you wanted to achieve your exalted aims and objectives and to fly in wide spiritual atmosphere, you must stand firm and bravely with strong ambition in order to trek in the atmosphere of spiritual world. Just as the birds flies with their wings; the great men also flies with the power of their ambition and determination towards the luminous heaven and spiritual world while they segregate themselves from material world.

The great men have expounded this reality in the following short and meaningful statement:

A man flies with his ambition.¹

The more a person's ambition is high the more it takes peak in spiritual atmosphere and in a situation whereby he did not enjoyed an exalted ambition he will not be able to fly as expected.

Base on this, if human being is having great and exalted aim and objective and he is not having the determination of reaching that

¹ - Bihar al-Anwar volume : 18 page : 380.

ambition and has not move step forward towards that, he shall never attain it.

A meritorious and precious man is he who has move towards an exalted ambition with strong and brave determination.

The great (friends) good servants of Allah are having strong determination and an exalted ambition in their way to reach an exalted rank; they are also always firm in their spiritual path and they abstain themselves from all sorts of weakness and feebleness. Therefore, an exalted aim, great destination and brave ambition are the attributes of those great men.

It is due to the exalted ambition of the great men of the time;

They were able to attain an elevated position.

The value of the great men that have achieved an exalted ambition towards elevated aims and objectives is the extent of their ambition.

The commander of the faithful *(peace be upon him)* said:

***The value of a man is according to the extent of his ambition.*¹**

Therefore, an exalted ambition brings many valuable gifts to human being because if our great men who have possessed the mysteries from the holy infallible household of the Prophet *(peace be upon them)* and have dedicated their life to seek their pleasure did not enjoyed exalted ambition, how were they able to achieve their high and exalted post and to quench their thirst from the spiritual fountain of the holy household of the Prophet *(peace be upon them)*?

¹ - Sharh Gurar al-Hukum volume : 4 page : 500; and also from Bihar al- Anwar volume : 78 page : 14.

The receptivity of this type of people is that the blessings of the holy household of the Prophet (*peace be upon them*) on them will not create self-centeredness and arrogance in them, therefore through much ambition and patronage they are having, they were fortunate to attain all their rank.

But can a person who has seen a dream or an occurrence of a spiritual journey or getting a material request from the Imams (*peace be upon them*) obtain self development! Is he able to enjoy an exalted ambition? Or does a person who is surprise of hearing a dream or the occurrence of a spiritual journey or obtaining a material request and have also engaged in denying all these occurrences is deem to have enjoyed an exalted ambition?

It is undoubtedly that such person has not enjoyed any exalted ambition and he has dashed out the virtuous of doing such work.

The commander of the faithful (*peace be upon him*) said:

***Whoever's ambition is little spoils his virtue.*¹**

TRY TO IMPLEMENT YOUR DECISION

Human being in many cases is able to dash out many appropriate opportunities and at the end to be afflicted with regret. So, in order to prevent the occurrence of this type of regret we must benefit from any good opportunity and valuable chances before us and likewise to implement our decision.

Imam Sadiq (*peace be upon him*) in a narration said:

***If anyone of you has intended to do good act, he should not hesitate in doing it.*¹**

¹ - Sharh Gurar al-Hikam volume : 5 page : 210.

Therefore, in a situation whereby there is delay, the possibility of envisaging hindrance and dashing out this opportunity is there, meanwhile the Satan and your selfishness are voracious in creating problems and hindrances for you.

Imam Sadiq (*peace be upon him*) in another narration said:

Anytime you have decided to do good deeds, you should do that on time without hesitation because you don't know what may happen that will prevent you from doing it.²

Definitely there are a lot of occurrences that do come to take many opportunities from us and at the end we will not be successful in implementing the good and splendid things we intended to do.

¹ - Bihar al-Anwar volume : 71 page : 217; and also from Majalis Sheikh Mufid (May Almighty Allah have mercy on him) : 128.

² - Bihar al-Anwar volume : 71 page : 222; and also from Usul al-Kafi volume : 2 page : 142.

**POWER OF TAKING DECISION IS THE FACTOR OF SUCCESS WHILE
WEAKNESS IN TAKING DECISION IS THE FACTOR OF FAILURE**

Just as an exalted ambition in doing good and valuable work is testimony of the greatness and exaltedness of the position of human being likewise weakness in taking decision is a proof of failure and dashing out the existing virtue in human being.

Making researches and quest of about (25,000) twenty five thousand people that are not successful in their ambition or of those who did not reach their destination shows that among (31) thirty one factors that cause failure; the inability to take decision is recorded as the most important evidence of failure. Negligence and transferring today's activities to the next day are opposition to decision taking and it is an enemy to potentiality that we must subdued.

Likewise making research and quest of about hundreds of people among those that are successful in achieving their aims and objectives shows that they all enjoyed the specialty of taking quick decision and they stand firm by their decision and likewise they don't easily change their stands.

Those who did not reach their destination are those who are not able to take decision and those that easily and quickly change their decision.¹

Then you must try to increase your power of decision taking, because the more your power of taking decision increases the more the impact brings more profit to you and the better your exalted ambition, the more you are able to reach your destination.

The commander of the faithful (*peace be upon him*) said:

¹ - Biyandisheed wa tharwatmand shaved: 140.

Whoever's ambition is great, his precept become dear and respectful.¹

Not all the tree can bear the jilting of an autumn;

Because only the healthy ambition that has this stride.

Base on this, those that deserve respect are those that has enjoyed an exalted ambition and they obtain their great aims and objective under the shadow of power of taking decision. Definitely people see the greatness of this type of people and they have defined them to have deserved praise worthy.

The behavior, method and precept of this type of people have enjoyed dignity and greatness and other people deem and counted them to be excellent and exclusive personalities.

Definitely if this type of people make their exalted ambition and their decision in the path of closeness and nearness to Almighty Allah and in the path of their spiritual journey, without doubt that they will enjoy nearness and closeness to Almighty Allah and the holy household of the Prophet *(peace be upon them)* which will be emulated by other people.

You should put your exalted ambition on heavenly issues;

But men put their ambition on king and the issue of leadership.

¹ - Sharh Gurar al-Hukum volumn: 5 page : 288.

WITH POWERFUL DETERMINATION YOU WILL SUBDUCE YOUR NATURE

Human being's nature is such that his behavior and action with time becomes part of his moral and ethic in the sense that he will be addicted to it and he will not have the power of separating from them.

Imam Sadiq (peace be upon him) in this respect said:

Ethic and moral is of two types, one is the nature that is obtained through decision and intention while the other is the nature and essence of human being. The companions of the Imam (peace be upon him) inquired from him of the best among these two ethic and moral?

Imam Sadiq (peace be upon him) said: the ethic and moral that is obtained through decision and intention is better and more valuable; therefore person whose ethic and moral is from nature and essence is created in that form and can not do otherwise while the ethic and moral that is obtained through decision and intention has create forbearance for himself in obedience to Almighty Allah; so in this sense the ethic and moral obtained through decision and intention is better.¹

Therefore great men with serious decision, make good ethics and moral to be part of their nature and with strong intentions they distance themselves from bad ethics that is mixed with their nature.

Prophet ZulQarnain has traveled between the east and the west of the world and has gone closer and witness their behavior and action. He found the living of the entire people to be simple and common and they enjoyed the best method of societal interaction. Meanwhile he has not envisaged any traces of killing, blood shed, plunderers and deceits likewise the lairs did not engaged in deception.

In this respect ZulQarnain was astonished and he throws a lot of questions to them, meanwhile he received satisfactory answers from them. He inquired from them as follows:

Why insult, enmity and bloodshed did not exist in your society?! While answering the question they said: it is for the fact that our decision has subdued our nature

¹ - Bihar al-Anwar volume : 78 page : 257.

and with strong determination we are able to do away with our bad ethics, and then we conduct ourselves with good ethics and morals.¹

Base on this, if person's nature is oppression, misdemeanor, lie, hypocritical and weak or a person's nature is of any other bad attributes, he is able with braveness and strong decision to subdued them and fashion his nature with good and splendid ethics and morals.

Mountain can not block ones intended way;

But men's ambition has blended the mountain.

If you see the bad attributes in you to be firm as mountain, not only you can do away with it with braveness and powerful determination and ambition rather you can obtain the power of changing it to good and splendid morals and ethics.

MULLA SALIH MAZANDARANI IS A MAN OF DECISION AND DETERMINATION

Mulla Salih Mazandarani is among the people that are able with his power of decision and determination to fight the lapses that exist in his essence and attain his destination.

He is the in-law of the first Allamah Majlisi and one of the notable Shi'a scholars. He is among those whom we must know how his conditions become an essential lesson and admonition for those who wanted to reach high destinations and an exalted aims and objectives.

He said: I am a proof for the student of Islamic sciences; because no one is indigent more than me and no one's memory is poor than my own to the extent I do forget the way to my house and the names of

¹ - Ikmailu Deen: 227; and also from Bihar al-Anwar volume : 12 page : 192.

my children and it was after (30) thirty years of my age I commence studying alphabets! Although I have struggle so much before Almighty Allah bestowed what ever I am having upon me.¹

Definitely he was previously poor with dull brain and memory, but with braveness and strong determination he is having at the end with serious decision he was able to author many valuable books which are presently used by many great Shi'a scholars.

It was known that he has poor memory to the extent he normally loss the location of the house of his teacher! Likewise he is very poor materially to the extent that due to his old dresses he normally out of shyness desists from entering the class and he stays outside the class to write his lessons on bones and plane tree leave.

There was a time when there was a pending issue to solve which takes many days without an answer to it, but one of the student of Late Allamah Majlisi saw Mulla Salih to have answer the question in a plane tree leave and brought the answer to the class of Allamah Majlisi.

Allamah Majlisi understood that the answer is not from him rather it is from another person; Allamah insisted to know who has answered the question and said: the answer is from whom? He replies: the answer is from someone outside the class. Allamah Majlisi glanced at Mulla Salih and saw him outside the class; he gave him cloth as a gift and made him present in the class. He focused on him to the extent he took him to his house and married his daughter to him and likewise gave him an apartment in his house.²

With any work you have done with ambition and determination;

¹ - Fawa'id Radawiyah by Muhadith Qumi (r.a) : 544.

² - Tazkiratul Qubur : 71.

If it is thorn, you have made bunch of flower.

TRY TO STRENGTHEN YOUR INTENTION AND DETERMINATION

Upon the entire deficiencies that exist in Mulla Salih Mazandarani, but with strong intention and serious determination, he was able to achieve an exalted position in knowledge. Meanwhile if you want Almighty Allah to help you and to take you up, you should not have shortcoming in your decision and intention.

The commander of the faithful (*peace be upon him*) in one of his letter wrote as follows:

Definitely Almighty Allah gives His servant the extent of his intention.¹

The value and the extent of the intention of every person will be equivalent to the remuneration Almighty Allah will give him. The more your intention is better and sincere the more you shall enjoyed more rewards.

Base on this you should give more importance and value to your intention and not to fashioned your works and deeds! Because the men of God in order to reach great and valuable aims and objectives completely need Almighty Allah's favor and divine grace, meanwhile Almighty Allah's assistance and help is according to the extent of one's intention and determination.

Imam Sadiq (*peace be upon him*) in the following narration has open the curtain behind this secret and he (*peace be upon him*) said:

Verily Almighty Allah has destined the extent of His assistance and help to His servant according to the extent of the servant's intention, whoever purified and perfected his intention, Almighty Allah's help and assistance shall completely reach

¹ - Bihar al-Anwar volume : 33 page : 588.

him and whoever has shorten his intention, Almighty Allah's help and assistance shall be shortened upon him the extent he has shorten his intention.¹

In this statement, Imam Sadiq (peace be upon him) has expounded the secret behind the success of the great men and the unsuccessfulness of others; therefore, the symbol of divine assistance to human being is being defined as their intention.

Intention and decision are so active and powerful to the extent if you strengthen your decision, you will do away with the weakness of the body and likewise the body shall have the preparedness of doing heavy programs. Therefore strong intention and determination shall be the breaker of the weak body.

Imam Sadiq (peace be upon him) said:

The body that has strong intention never becomes weak.²

A lot of sportsmen and those that are on military training benefitted from spiritual training more than physical training; therefore they understood that strengthening the thought and determination, and to have the power of taking decision and intention have important and strong impact in building the organs of the body.

Presently a lot of people believe that youth and power, old age and weakness derived their fountain from one origin; they said: the aureole that is at the sides of the body of the entire human being has powerful or weak impact in human being's body.

Even though this topic is not accepted by everyone but base on probability, it is possible to say that: aureole has impact in the

¹ - Bihar al-Anwar volume : 70 page : 211.

² - Amali by Suduq: 198; and from Bihar al-Anwar volume : 7 page : 205.

healthiness and sickness or in powerful and weakness of the body and likewise it has impact in the life and death of human being.

WAYS FOR STRENGTHENING DETERMINATION

1 - Deliberation and Zeal strengthening your Determination

Satan show astray ways to the transgressors and motivated them towards transgression and temptation so that it distance them from the right path and afflict them with eternal lost. One of the ways of Satan is extensive deliberation and zeal towards reaching their selfish desire. Almighty Allah said:

{But those pursue their [base] appetites desire that you fall into gross waywardness}.¹

Tremendous inclination or burning deliberation and zeal in order to reach ones selfish desire with the motivation of selfishness and Satan will be created in them and at the end they will be afflicted with transgression and bad deeds.

Just as too much deliberation and zeal in order to reach ones selfish desire is counted as one of the strong factors that misled those who have gone astray likewise too much deliberation and zeal in order to reach an exalted and elevated ambition is also a powerful factor in achieving and obtaining great science and spiritual ambition.

Base on this, if you wanted to obtain and have inclination towards great and exalted human ambition and you wanted it to be easily obtained, you must create deliberation and zeal in yourself so that your determination towards obtaining it become powerful. Intensive determination and zeal make ease the difficulties in things likewise it make problems common and simple, and it also make the distance ambition closer to you.

¹ - Surah Nisa'l verse 27.

Strong deliberation and zeal make unlevel path to be flat and take the hindrance away from your path and strengthen your determination in order to achieve your ambition.

Too much deliberation and zeal about a topic make you to relinquish other issues and in order for you to rescue from your idea and aims concerning different issues and in order for you to attain one great ambition you must to chose the best aims and objectives and to deliberate and have zeal over it so that you can achieve it. If in reality one is able to obtain zeal in order to reach an ambition he must forget about some other issues.

In a narration which is attributed to Imam Sadiq (*peace be upon him*), he said:

The exemplary of a zealous person is like a drawn person, he don't have any ambition except his rescue while he has forget everything other than that.¹

Base on this statement, a person that has created zealousness towards what he loves in his mind forget about other things, meanwhile all his ambition and determination is focused in order to reach his ambition.

2- Hope and Aspiration is a Splendid Ambition

The more the hope is much the more the ambition shall also become. The person who is hopeful usually enjoyed deliberation and zeal. In this respect the youths that are hopeful of their future and they are also brimful spiritually has more deliberation and zeal of reaching their ambition more than other people. At the end for the fact that they have more hope of achieving spiritual rank and they struggle and search much, they will definitely arrive at conclusion.

¹ - Bihar al-Anwar volume : 70 page : 24.

But as for those that are not having deliberation in their affairs and also not having zeal in their mind, they were afflicted with despair and there is no any hope of reaching their destination and as a result of that they will leave struggling which is the responsibility of every clear minded human being and every acquainted Shi'a; they will also be in gloomy and despair, they have turn their days to nights and their nights to days; meanwhile they are just adding sorrow to their sorrow, because it did not solve their problem or other people's problem, likewise they did not liberate their problem and affliction; and they did not step forward towards luminous and spiritual houses.

Indeed this is the outcome of the life of those groups of people that see Almighty Allah with despair eye and they don't have hope on the help and the lively concentration of the holy household of the Prophet *(peace be upon them)*.

3- Be among those that Seek for Determination and an exalted Ambition from Almighty Allah

The supplications, recourses and prayers that was reported from the holy household of the Prophet has taught us the best way of life and the exalted way of training to entire human being. Therefore we must learn the great aims, the most exalted ambition and the most firm determination from the holy household of the Prophet *(peace be upon them)*.

Those great men apart from their eloquent statements and orders, they have also taught us the best lessons in life in their supplications and prayers. In the supplication scripture of Imam Sajjad *(peace be upon him)* he requested from Almighty Allah as follows:

Or Allah! I requested the most exalted ambition from you....¹

Imam Sajjad (*peace be upon him*) in this supplication has bring hope to the mind of all his followers and he has also create hopefulness of requesting an exalted ambition instead of little ambition.

This statement of Imam Sajjad (*peace be upon him*) is awakening caution for the entire human being. Therefore everyone must know that an exalted ambition is not made for only small group of people or for an exclusive people rather it is made for the entire followers of right path of the holy household of the Prophet (*peace be upon them*), they must request for the most exalted ambition from Almighty Allah and struggle towards it.

¹ - Bihar al-Anwar volume : 94 page : 155.

THE CONCLUSION OF THE DISCUSSION

Powerful determination and brave ambition are among the bounties of Almighty Allah of which through it you will be able fly in spiritual altitude of the heaven. You should therefore create this power in yourself and abstain yourself from weakness and feebleness so that you can increase your noble and tremendousness.

Weakness in taking decision is the most important factor of your stagnant and recession and with power of taking decision you will be able to be closer and nearer to the border of success and achievement.

According to the statement of Imam Sadiq (*peace be upon him*) by power of decision taken you will be able to uproot unwanted behavior that is part of human nature and replace it with good and splendid ethics and morals.

Failure in reaching ones destination must not weak your determination rather you should take lesson from the failure in order to increase your power of determination.

With serious determination and exalted ambition, not only you can achieve human high rank rather you will be able to reach the rank of the Angels to the extent the Angels will be at your services. Therefore in order not to forfeit the chances we are having, we should take away the mountain of hindrance from our way through strong determination so that we reach the exalted aims and objective of creation.

If the entire living creatures have strong determination like the iron;

The mountain will be under our feet like the plain land.

Contents

CHOOSE THE BEST AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	4
YOU SHOULD FOCUS UPON THE OUTCOME OF YOUR AIM5	
WHAT IS THE AIM AND OBJECTIVE OF CREATING HUMAN BEING?	7
WAYS OF REACHING ONES AIMS AND OBJECTVES	9
1- To have hope in your aims and objectives.....	9
Notification about a point.....	10
2- Role for Demand and Searching in order to Achieving aims and Objective	11
3- In the Service of Great Men.....	13
4- To Disagree with your Selfishness or to be on the Way of Reaching an Elevated Destinations	14
5- Recourse through the Holy Household of the Prophet (peace be upon them) in order to Reach Great Aims and Objectives.....	15

THE CONCLUSION OF THE DISCUSSION	16
THE VALUE OF DETERMINATION	20
SINCERITY BEFORE DECISION AND DETERMINATION	22
You should give Direction and Course to your Determination and Decision	23
YOU SHOULD POSSESS AN EXALTED AMBITION	24
TRY TO IMPLEMENT YOUR DECISION	26
POWER OF TAKING DECISION IS THE FACTOR OF SUCCESS WHILE WEAKNESS IN TAKING DECISION IS THE FACTOR OF FAILURE	28
WITH POWERFUL DETERMINATION YOU WILL SUBDUE YOUR NATURE	30
MULLA SALIH MAZANDARANI IS A MAN OF DECISION AND DETERMINATION	31
TRY TO STRENGTHEN YOUR INTENTION AND DETERMINATION	33
WAYS FOR STRENGTHENING DETERMINATION.....	36
1- Deliberation and Zeal strengthening your Determination	36
2- Hope and Aspiration is a Splendid Ambition	37
3- Be among those that Seek for Determination and an exalted Ambition from Almighty Allah.....	38
THE CONCLUSION OF THE DISCUSSION	40