

Behavioral Perspective of Alavi Wisdom

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ABSTRACT: This paper explores behavior issue and its different aspects in the words of Imam Ali (as) and has attempted to take advantage of his valuable words to investigate behavior, types of behavior, aspects of behavior, innate and acquired behavior, and differences in behaviors, roles and impact of behavior. For this purpose, the researcher investigates Mottos among the words of Ali (AS) in Nahjolbalagheh (sermon 241, letter 79 and motto 480), and after reviewing the 480 valuable mottos of the precious and heavy book extracted the following findings: A) Among the mottos of Nahjolbalagheh, motto 327 (about 68.12 percent) have been mentioned directly and indirectly behavior issue of in various aspects. B) Ali (AS) in his speech has investigated the different aspects of behavior (personal, social, social - moral, and believed) this indicates his attention. C) Individual aspects of treatment with allocation of 24.79 percent of the mottos of the Nahjolbalagheh is in the top of aspects of behavior, and this indicates that the aspect of behavior is basis of social behavior and has considerable importance. Finally, the researcher has introduced solutions for applied the behaviors of Ali (as).

Keywords: behavior, Motto, Nahjolbalagheh, Ali (AS)

INTRODUCTION

Behavior has a background as old as human history because human as a living being is affected by both environmental and internal (needs and instincts) factors which has to be responded for survival. The way that someone responds to the above mentioned factors, form his behavior which is mentioned as psychology or behavioral study which is a scientific field of study. The definition of this knowledge says: "psychology is the study of different perspectives of behavior and their mutual interaction" [1].

Another definition of psychology is: "psychology means mental and mind recognition because we can't have a direct recognition from the processes in the others' mind i.e. from what's going on inside their minds, we have to consider their performance in other words considered their behavior [2].

Also the emergence of the psychology in 1879 was related to German W.Wundt, but it is obvious that study of the behavior and the function of the mind has a very old history which goes back to the time of human creation. Behavior and its studies is of huge importance in Islam which is evident in Quran, in speeches and behaviors of Prophet Muhammad (Bless him and his family) and Imams (peace be upon them). Among the infallible Imams (peace be upon them) Amir-al-momenin (-commander of the faithful -peace be upon him) has focused on this case more than the others which doubles the importance of human behavior. He has implied to the behavior, study of the behavior, difference of behaviors, role and effect of behavior, deviant behavior and collective behavior in his sermons, letters and sayings which are collected in valuable book of Nah-jul Balaghah. For example Imam Ali (peace be upon him) in saying 26 which is about behavioral studies and the role of morality in human body which is the epiphany of mental performance states:

"Often your utterances and expressions of your face leak out the secrets of your hidden thoughts [3].

Or in saying 91 about the method of psychotherapy and psychoanalysis states:

"Like your body your mind also gets tired so refresh it by wise sayings."

Scrutinizing and analysis of Amir-al-momenin's (peace be upon him) speech which is said that Nah-jul Balaghah is beyond the speech of humanity, can be helpful about lots of problems and concerns of today's life of humanity. It has to be mentioned that such studies cannot be conducted by everyone but a few. Conducting these studies are hard which in sermon 189 of Nah-jul Balaghah are implied to as:

"Certainly, our case is difficult and complicated. No one can bear it except a believer whose heart Allah has tried with belief. Our traditions will not be preserved except by trustworthy hearts and (men of) solid understanding" [3].

based on the statements of Imam Ali, conducting research, survey and the analysis of issues of household is difficult which can't be done by everyone, but it is not impossible either and it is required that the behavior of household enlighten the path and take us close to the final goal because :

If the sea water can't be drunk so the thirst must be tolerated

The Importance and urgency of Research: About the importance of research on words of Imam Ali, it is enough to mention a statement of Ayatollah Khamenei that says:

"Amir-al-momenin is a perfect model for everyone" [4].

Also countless numbers of Muslim and non-Muslim Scientists and scholars have talked about the wisdom of Ali (peace be upon him) like George Jordagh, Thomas Carlyle, Jabran Khalil Jabran, Khatib Kharazmi, Alameh Amini, Allameh Mohammad Taghi Jafari, Shahid Mortaza Motahari, Allameh Tastari, Dr. Shariati, Ab al-Fattah Abd-al Maghsud etc.

Conducted Studies and compilation: From the past to the present valuable steps have been taken about the valuable book of Nah-jul Balaghah including:

- 1-the book of "criticizing the views of some contemporary scientists" compiled by Shariatmadary in 2001.
- 2-the book of "order of life" Compiled by Seyyed Mehdi Shojai which in fact is a translation and description of letter No.31 of Nah-jul Balaghah that contain valuable educative points.
- 3-"Ghorar-al-Hekam VA Dorar-al-Kalem" is another book that is written by Abd-al-vahed ben Mohammad Tamimi and translated by Seyyed Mohsen Mosvi [5].

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Current study is of applied research with descriptive application method. For this purpose sayings of Nah-jul Balaghah (480 sayings) is analyzed.

Innate Behavior and Acquisitive Behavior: Specialists believe that psychology is the study of different aspects of human behavior such as physical, emotional, social, mental, behavioral and artistic and their mutual relationship in other words the basis of psychology is individual behavior and its related studies. One of the most important points in behavioral studies is accepting the important fact that there are two kinds of behaviors: acquisitive behavior and innate behavior. Ganji believes that acquisitive behavior is more or less independent of heredity and it is an innate behavior that is determined only by heredity. He also puts the third category of behaviors in this group and divides the behavior into three categories:

A-acquisitive behavior

B-innate behavior but related to the education

C-innate behavior (the kind of behavior that is determined only by heredity)

This threefold categorization is closer to Imam Ali's (peace be upon him) point of view because in most of his statements he tries to enlighten and educate people with explicit and factual examples to change their behavior. In saying 11 which is about the dealing with your enemy he states: "If you overpower your enemy, then pardon him by way of thankfulness to Allah, for being able to subdue him". Or in saying 20 he states that "Overlook and forgive the weaknesses of the generous people because if they fall down, Allah will help them".

Considering the above two sayings it becomes clear that the intention of Imam Ali (peace be upon him) of behavior is acquisitive behavior and the innate behavior that is related to the education and he also believes that behavior can be changed because otherwise these statements and sayings of Imam Ali (peace be upon him) would be in vain and the fact that doing so is contradictory to his dignity.

Individual and collective behavior: Sometimes behavior is individual and a single person performs that behavior but it is often that an individual inside a group performs a behavior with the group. The definition of collective behaviors says: "Unstructured behavioral pattern, unpredictable, emotional and spontaneous [6].

Collective behavior occurs when traditional methods are not appropriate and enough for doing things. Intrigues, unrests, group horrors and etc. are in collective behavior framework. A point which can be found in sayings of Nah-jul Balaghah is addressing both individual and collective behaviors that indicates Imam Ali's (peace be upon him) emphasis on collective behavior and its effect on individual and society. Imam Ali (peace be upon him) in saying 1 about the self-control in collective behavior states that:

"During civil disturbance adopt such an attitude that people do not attach any importance to you - they neither burden you with complicated affairs, nor try to derive any advantage out of you".

And in saying 207 about adopting the blessed behaviors states that :

"if you are not patients, pretend to be patient because there are few who pretend to be man and not to become one of them [3].

In fact Imam Ali (peace be upon him) has a general and wise attitude toward individual and collective behavior and consider them as correlative because individual behavior affects the occurrence of collective behavior and collective behavior can also affect every aspect of individual behavior. Hence they have to be considered as general and in the same area so that their mutual interactions can be determined.

Different aspects of Behavior: It was mentioned before that the psychology is the study of different aspects of behavior and their mutual interactions and it became clear that behavior has different aspects and categorizations. In this study behavior is divided to individual, social, ethics-beliefs categories and related examples are extracted from Nah-jul Balaghah.

Table 1. Different aspects of behavior in sayings of Nah-jul Balaghah and their frequency.

Behavioral aspects	The number of sayings in Nah-jul Balaghah if	Frequency of sayings
Individual aspects	105	21.87
Social aspects	84	17.50
Ethics-beliefs aspects	67	13.95

With a glance at table 1 accurate and valuable information can be acquired about the importance of behavior in Alavi's wisdom:

1-From the total number of 480 sayings in Nah-jul Balaghah, 256 sayings are directly or indirectly related to behavior which indicated its importance in statements and behaviors of Imam Ali (peace be upon him).

2-Imam Ali (peace be upon him) has addressed all the aspects of behavior and has valuable sayings about each of them.

3-The individual aspect of behavior has the highest frequency in the aspects of the behavior table which emphasis on its being the basis because the society and the collective behavior is a function of mutual interaction of human elements(individual) and environmental factors that the individual behavior plays an important role in it.

The definition of Dr.Shariatmadari is a quote from Francis Brown about the society which says:

With considering this fact, the rule of individual aspects become clear more than ever because the collective behavior is formed from the collection of individual behavior of its members and their mutual interaction with the environment hence individual behavior gains lots of importance.

Now with the findings of the study, we emphasized on different aspects of behavior in Nah-jul balaghah:

1-Individual Aspect: Imam Ali (peace be upon him) in 105 sayings of Nah-jul balaghah has addressed the individual behavior and emphasized on it directly or indirectly include the following:

In saying 12 which is about the individual behavior in friendship and basics of making friends states that :

“Unfortunate is he who cannot gain a few sincere friends during his life[3].

Or in saying 27 which is about the methods of curing states that:

“When you get I'll do not get nervous about it and try as much as possible to be hopeful[3].

And also in saying 62 which is about a proper response to the kindness states that:

“If you are greeted then return the greetings more warmly. If you are favored, then repay the obligation manifold [3].

2-Social Aspect: As in table No.1 mentioned, 84 sayings of Nah-jul balaghah is about the social behavior and its principles. The following saying are the examples:

Imam Ali (peace be upon him) in saying 73 which is about the Self-improvements of the leaders and managers states that:

“Whoever wants to be a leader should educate himself before educating others. Before preaching to others he should first practice himself [3].

And in saying 86 which is about the superiority of the experiences of the elderlies to the strength of the Young states that:

“I appreciate an old man's cautious opinion more than the valor of a young man[3].

Or in saying 101 which is about the meeting the people's need states that :

“the help that you give to men in need, should possess the following attributes: whatever its extent, it should be considered by you as trifling so that it may be granted a high status; it should be given secretly, Allah will manifest it; and the hustle is unpleasant in its fulfilment[3].

3-Ethics and Belief Aspects: The point that the individual behavior becomes the nature, behavior and belief of the person is important because with nurturing and blossoming this aspect (ethics and belief aspects) it can be expected that the person in different situations even in harmful ones behave the way in which he deeply believed and considered as the best behavior. Ethics and belief aspects, is the highest level of human behavior which stops the occurrence of the behaviors that are in contrast with ethics, beliefs and values. In this level the person cannot choose specific behavior from amongst the desired ones but he just can behave the way that is in his nature and deeply believes in its fulfillment. It is necessary to mention that reaching to this level is very difficult and except a few people no one can accomplish it. Imam Ali (peace be upon him) in saying 67 of Nah-jul balaghah addressed this aspect of behavior, some quotes are provided below.

In saying 471 which is about the governance he states that:

“Spread the justice and avoid oppressiveness that injustice displaces the peasants and violence leads to struggle and sword[3]. Or in saying 458 which is about the signs of faith he states that: “The sign of faith is saying the truth when it harms you and avoid lies that benefits you and not to speak more than what you do and fear God when talking about the others. And also in saying 276 which is about avoiding the lies states that :

“O Allah, I seek refuge in you that my appearance be pleasant in front of the eyes and my inside be ugly from what I hide from you...”[3].

CONCLUSION

The results of the study are presented as follows:

1-Behavior has an important and valuable place in Alavi Wisdom.

2-Imam Ali (peace be upon him) has addressed all aspects of behavior and didn't overlook any of its aspects.

3-Hence the human behavior is the representative of his personality, Imam Ali (peace be upon him) tries to control and nurture the human personality.

4-Imam Ali (peace be upon him) believes that even the innate behaviors (Inherited) are amendable.

5-Learning and education has an important and constructive role in human behavior in a way that even innate behaviors can be amended through learning.

6-Amongst the aspects of behavior, individual aspect has the highest important because the society is made up of peoples and with their correction, society will be corrected either.

7-Individual and collective behavior has a mutual interaction and are correlated.

8-Collective behavior is a function of the mutual interaction of individual behavior with environmental factors.

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