



PNU University

English for Students of Theology (2)

(Department of Theology)

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بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

پیشگفتار ناشر

کتاب‌های دانشگاه پیام نور حسب مورد و با توجه به شرایط مختلف یک درس در یک یا چند رشته دانشگاهی، به صورت کتاب درسی، متن آزمایشگاهی، فرادرسی، و کمک درسی چاپ می‌شوند.

کتاب درسی ثمره کوشش‌های علمی صاحب اثر است که براساس نیازهای درسی دانشجویان و سرفصل‌های مصوب تهیه و پس از داوری علمی، طراحی آموزشی، و ویرایش علمی در گروه‌های علمی و آموزشی، به چاپ می‌رسد. پس از چاپ ویرایش اول اثر، با نظرخواهی‌ها و داوری علمی مجدد و با دریافت نظرهای اصلاحی و متناسب با پیشرفت علوم و فناوری، صاحب اثر در کتاب تجدیدنظر می‌کند و ویرایش جدید کتاب با اعمال ویرایش زبانی و صوری جدید چاپ می‌شود.

متن آزمایشگاهی (م) راهنمایی است که دانشجویان با استفاده از آن و کمک استاد، کارهای عملی و آزمایشگاهی را انجام می‌دهند.

کتاب‌های فرادرسی (ف) و **کمک درسی** (ک) به منظور غنی‌تر کردن منابع درسی دانشگاهی تهیه و بر روی لوح فشرده تکثیر می‌شوند و یا در وبگاه دانشگاه قرار می‌گیرند.

مدیریت تولید محتوا و تجهیزات آموزشی

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Preface

All Praise is due to Allah Who created human being and provided the way of his perfection. And God's bless and peace be upon His prophets, especially Muhammad and his family. And God's mercy may be upon the souls of all thinkers and scholars particularly Allamah Muhammad Hussein Tabātābai and Professor Hussein Nasr whose scientific and theological works constitute a part of the present book - the Shi'ism in Islām- and written by the former and translated into English by the later.

I would like to express my appreciation and gratitude to the editors, especially my friend and colleague, Dr. Mohammad Hussein mahdavinejad, and from the department of linguistics and foreign languages who helped me in preparing this book with their insightful comments and constant encouragements. And I deem it necessary to express my thanks to the Faculty of Theology and Islāmic sciences, especially the members of Islāmic philosophy and theology department, as well as the staff of the office of compiling and preparing the textbooks.

I hope this book would be, to some extent, useful for theology students and I would appreciate some feedback on my work from students, instructors and other readers using this book.

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Study guide

The purpose of this volume is to increase the reading skills of the students of theology and step up their understanding of religious matters particularly point of view of Shi'it about the knowledge of the Prophets, eschatology and the leadership after the Prophet of Islām. This book is divided into fourteen units, and each unit consists of three parts.

Part one: word study: definitions, synonyms and exemplifications

This part includes the definition and synonym of main and general words and phrases that are supposed to be necessary to review and learn before reading the main passage of each unit. Students should read this part carefully and then read the passage and then go through the exercises.

Part two: passage

The reading passages have been taken from religious texts, particularly the book of Shi'ism in Islām, and include the Islāmic matters especially the point of view of Shi'it about the knowledge of the Prophet, eschatology and Imamate.

Part three: exercises

The exercises contain different parts that increase student's attention to key points in each passage, their understanding of the text and its content. They consist of the following parts:

1. Vocabulary exercises

These exercises will help students to think of the answers corresponding

with what they have read in the passage particularly in “word study”. They will get easier if students have a mental framework or background of what they have read. Furthermore, there are passages through which the students will increase their understanding of the meaning of words as well as their capability of choosing the proper words and filling in the blanks.

2. Comprehension exercises

These exercises direct students’ attention to key points in each passage and test students’ understanding of the contents.

3. Multiple-choice questions

These questions test students’ overall understanding of stated and implied facts and points in the passages.

4. Translation Activities

Nowadays, there are many books and articles on the theology in English. There is an increasing demand for students to become familiar with translation skills. Two exercises of each unit serve this purpose and students are supposed to read the passage carefully and then translate them into fluent Persian.

Appendices

Appendix 1: The answer keys

Since this book is designed for self-study, students must do the exercises themselves.

Then, they can check their answers to those given (provided) in this appendix.

Appendix 2: Transliteration

Since there are many Arabic words in the passages of this book and other Islāmic texts, this part is added to help students to read, spell, pronounce and understand the Arabic words correctly.

Unit 1

On the Knowledge of the Prophet (1)

General Aims

This unit has been designed to help you learn a number of main and general words about prophetic matters; to expand your reading comprehension skills; and to familiarize you with the typical passages of the prophet and prophethood.

Behavioral objectives

After carefully reading this unit, you are expected to:

1. Define the meaning of the main and general words of this unit.
2. Do the exercises A.
3. Do the comprehension exercises B and C.
4. Read the passage and its similar texts.
5. Translate the passage, terms and expressions in exercise D into Persian.
6. Explain the divine guidance.
7. Distinguish between the general and special guidance.
8. Describe the role of laws in the appearance and continuance of society.

Word study: Definitions, Synonyms and Exemplifications

Apportion

(v.)

- To divide and assign according to some plan or proportion
- Allot; distribute; divide

Grandmother's property was **apportioned** among her children after her death.

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Appropriate (adj.)

- Suitable; proper; fitting

This isn't the **appropriate** time.

Attainment (n.)

- An acquirement or acquisition; the act or process of attaining
- Gain; achievement

The **attainment** of common goals is easier.

Attention (n.)

- Concentration of one's inward powers upon an object
- Notice; consideration

He tried to attract the **attention** of a policeman.

Attract (v.)

- To draw or direct to oneself by some quality or action

A magnet **attracts** iron.

Befall (v.)

- Happen to

We prayed that no harm should **befall** them.

Bosom (n.)

- Center or inmost part

I did not tell it even in the **bosom** of my family.

Center on/upon (phr v.)

- Pay attention to; gather to a center

Much of their work is **centered on** local development project.

Characteristic (n.)

- A distinguishing feature or attribute
- Specification; peculiarity; property

The special **characteristic** of man which distinguishes him is intellect.

Concerning (prep)

- involving; pertaining to; as to; about

He asked several questions **concerning** the future of company.

Conclusion (n.)

- Something you decide after considering all the information you have
- Consequence; result; outcome

His **conclusions** have been verified.

Constraint (n.)

- Something that limits your freedom to do what you want
- Restraint; limitation; restriction; compulsion

They were able to talk without **constraint**.

Continuous (adj.)

- Continuing to happen or exist without interruption; without a stop or break
- Uninterrupted; unbroken; connected

Recovery after the accident will be a **continuous** process that may take several months.

Cooperation (n.)

- working together for a shared purpose
- Collaboration; assistance

A study was undertaken in **cooperation** with oil companies.

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Creature (n.)

- The world and all things in it that produced by God
- Being

God is the creator of all **creatures**.

Demand (n.)

- The act of demanding; an urgent need
- Claim; need; requirement

The believers give in to prophet's **demands**.

Development (n.)

- The process or result of developing
- Growth; advancement

The **development** of each species of creatures to a particular order is an undeniable fact.

Discipline (n)

- A particular system of rules for conduct
- Order; arrangement; regularity

He was able to maintain **discipline** among his students.

Environment (n.)

- The conditions surrounding something
- Ambience; atmosphere

The men must obey the social regulations of their **environment**.

Existence (n.)

- The state of being real
- Entity; reality; being

The man has been, from the first day of his **existence** until today, continuously seeking out his happiness.

Freedom (n.)

- The condition of being free
- Independence; liberty

Every individual has the right to act according to his or her **freedom**.

Fretful (adj.)

- Anxious and complaining

The child was tired and **fretful**.

Function (n.)

- The natural or proper action for which a person, office, mechanism, or organ is fitted or employed
- Task; duty; responsibility; role

Everything has a **function** in the world of being.

Generation (n.)

- The act or process of procreating
- Production; origination; procreation

The computers have served, from the first of their **generation**, to humanity.

Guidance (n.)

- Counselling, as on vocational, educational, or material problems
- Leadership

The movement of everything to its perfections has been called general **guidance**.

Grudge (v.)

- Be unwilling to give

He **grudged** paying so much.

Happiness (n.)

- Having or demonstrating pleasure
- Felicity; pleasance; gladness

The **happiness** and perfection of human is in worshiping God.

Imperfection (n.)

- The quality or condition of being imperfect
- Defect; flaw

He was aware of his **imperfections**.

Individual (n.)

- Human being; particular Person; single thing

He was a good and real **individual**.

Instinct (n.)

- The innate aspect of behavior that is unlearned, complex, and normally adaptive
- Natural disposition; nature

The men have **instinct** of self-centeredness and love of freedom.

Intellect (n.)

- The ability to think in a logical way; the power of knowing and understanding, especially at an advanced level

The special power and characteristic which distinguishes human from the other animals is **intellect**.

Movement (n.)

- The activities of a thing or group toward the achievement of a specific goal

The **movement** and attraction, which each species in creation possesses, have derived from Divine guidance.

Natural

(adj.)

- present in or produced by nature
- Inartificial

It is **natural** that humans love their offspring.

Owing to

(prep)

- Because of; due to

The game was cancelled **owing to** torrential rain.

Preservation

(n.)

- The act of preserving
- Keeping safe; conservation; protection

The creation and the **preservation** of things belong absolutely to God.

Primordial

(adj.)

- Principal; original; fundamental; substantial; essential

The philosophy is, according to Aristotle, the knowledge of **primordial** causes.

Punishment

(n.)

- An act of punishing; a penalty imposed for wrongdoing
- Penalty; retribution

There are, according to law, the **punishment** for each offender.

Recognize

(v.)

- To identify from past experience or knowledge
- Distinguish; tell apart

When man comes to accept the necessity for mutual cooperation among members of society, he also **recognizes** the necessity for laws.

Regulation

(n.)

- A principle, rule, or law designed to govern behavior
- Formula; principle; norm; law; rule; arrangement

We have to observe many **regulations** in the way we do business.

Sacrifice

(v.)

To offer something highly valued for the sake of someone or something considered having a greater value

Because he is created as a social being, man must of necessity **sacrifice** some of his freedom.

Satisfy

(v.)

- To gratify or fulfill a need, desire, etc.

She **satisfied** herself that it had been an accident.

Save

(prep)

- Except; unless

He answered all the questions **save** one.

Sequence

(n.)

- A following of one thing after another
- Discipline; arrangement; order

There are a particular order and **sequence** in the all of things of the world.

Species

(n.)

- A category of similar, closely, related organism capable of interbreeding
- Type; sort

The man is a **species** of animal.

Spring up

(phr v.)

- To appear or develop quickly or suddenly

Arts centers **sprang up** all over the country.

Transformation

(n.)

- The change of nature, function, or condition
- Change; conversion; commutation

In recent years, the movie industry has undergone a dramatic **transformation**.

Traverse

(v.)

- To move across, over, or through
- To cross

He **traversed** the deserts of Persia.

Passage

General and Special Guidance

General Guidance

A grain of wheat that is placed within the bosom of the earth under appropriate conditions begins to grow and enters upon a path of development in which at every moment it takes on a new form and state. Following a particular order and sequence it treads this path until it becomes a grown plant with spikes of wheat; if once again one of the seeds were to fall upon the ground, it would begin the previous cycle all over again until it reached the final goal. Likewise, if the seed is that of a fruit placed within the bosom of the soil, it begins its transformation, breaking its shell, from which a green stem shoots out.

It follows an orderly and distinct path of transformation until finally it becomes a fully grown tree, green and full of fruit. Or if it is the sperm of an animal, it begins to develop within the egg or in the womb of the mother, following the line of development peculiar to that animal until it becomes a perfected individual of that animal species.

This distinct path and orderly development is to be observed in each species of creatures in this world and is determined by the inner nature of that species. The green wheat plant which has sprung up from the grain will never bear oats or become a sheep, a goat, or an elephant, and an animal that has become pregnant from its male will never bear spikes of wheat or a plane tree. Even if an imperfection were to occur in the organs or the natural functions of the newly born, or if a lamb were to be born without an eye, or a wheat plant develop without spikes of wheat, we would have no doubt that such an occurrence was due to some pest or plague or to unnatural causes. Continuous order and regularity in the development and generation of things, and the belonging of each species of creatures in its generation and development to a particular order and rule, is an undeniable fact.

From this evident thesis two conclusions can be drawn:

(1) Between the various stages that each species of creatures traverses from the beginning to the end of its existence there is continuity and interconnection, as if that species in each stage of its development were pushed from behind and attracted by what is to come.

(2) Due to the above-mentioned continuity and interconnection, the last stage in the development of each species is from the beginning of its generation the goal and point of "existential attention" of that species. For example, the "attention" of the walnut that sends out a green shoot from below the earth is centered from that very moment on a fully-grown walnut tree. And a sperm in the egg or the womb is from the moment of its generation moving toward the state of the perfected animal.

The Holy Qurān, which teaches that the creation and the

preservation of things belong absolutely to God, considers this movement and attraction, which each species in creation possesses in treading its path of development, to be derived from Divine guidance. As He says, “Our Lord is He Who gave unto everything its nature, then guided it aright” (Qurān, XX, 50). And also, “Who createth, then disposeth; who measureth then guideth” (Quran. LXXXVII, 2-3). And He refers to the result of these sayings in these words: “And each one hath a goal toward which he turneth” (Qurān, II, 148). And also “And we created not the heavens and the earth, and all that is between them in play. We created them not save with truth, but most of them know not” (Qurān. XLIV, 38-39).

Special Guidance

Obviously, the human species is not an exception to this general rule. The same guidance which rules over all species of creatures governs man as well. In the same way that each species through its particular nature follows its path of perfection and is guided to it, so must man with the help of this guidance be guided toward that which is his real perfection. Although man shares many elements with other species of animals and with plants, the one special characteristic which distinguishes him is intellect. It is with the help of his intellect and reason that man is able to think and to make use of every means possible for his own benefit, to fly into the endless spaces of the sky or swim in the depth of the sea, or to bring under his service and command all kinds of created things, whether they be minerals, plants or animals on the surface of the earth, and to benefit even from members of his own species to the greatest extent possible.

Man: the Social Being

Owing to his primordial nature, man sees his happiness and perfection in gaining complete freedom. Yet, he must of necessity sacrifice some of his freedom because he is created as a social being and has endless demands which by himself he can never satisfy, and also because he is