

Second Rule

DETERMINATION, WILL AND RESOLUTION

The next rule concerns the stage of resolution and determination. The resolution which is required is synonymous with laying the foundation of a good life, a resolution to purge life from sin, and to perform all obligatory acts; and a resolution to compensate for the days lost (in sinfulness), and finally resolve to behave as a rational and devoted person ought to. That is, we should adopt a behavior that is in accordance with the codes of religious law, which would acknowledge us as a rational being.

At first, the learned have warned us that we are bound to face many unpleasant events. Friends and acquaintances who are interested only in their selfish desires and current social customs may constantly criticize us. Thus, we will have to encounter difficulties at every stage of this journey, which we can resolve only by means of our determination, perseverance, will power and trust in Allah (SWT).

al-Khumeini (AR) invites us to acknowledge that no path for the realization of divine existence can be undertaken unless one familiarizes himself with the apparent form of Islamic laws. Unless a person fully acquaints himself with the knowledge of the Shariah laws and follows them faithfully, he cannot attain the higher values of morality. Without adhering to the apparent teachings of Islam it is not possible that the Divine Knowledge could descend upon his heart, and the wisdom of the invisible, and the mysteries of the revered law be revealed to him.

Sayyid al-Khumeini (AR) further advises us that if we hear anything, which has been reported from any thinker or scholar, we should not refute it or consider it invalid just because it is not in accordance with our taste, or does not fit in our mode of thinking. This idea may have its origin from a higher source, from even The Qur'an and Hadith. How strange it will be that a Mujtahid issues a ruling (fatwa) regarding a certain aspect in Islam, and we reject it without examining the relevant evidences.