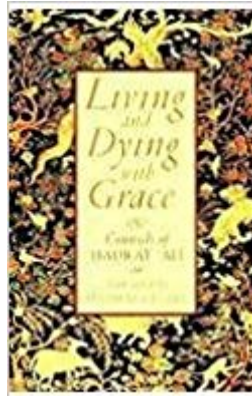




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Living & Dying With Grace



Synopsis

A book of Aphoristic teachings on how to make one's way in the world--especially on how to bring spiritual insight to the affairs of daily life, this book contains 400 of Hadrat'Ali's teachings of worldly wisdom which show how people can use the everyday realities of their lives to cultivate wisdom and well-being, both temporal and eternal.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

'Ali, a great warrior and statesman of emergent Islam, was well known and well respected for his knowledge of the esoteric. His compassion, loyalty, and devotion marked his tenure as both a political and religious leader. The sayings here collected reveal penetrating and timeless insights into the world of life and death. For example, 'Ali's reflection that "the ignorant among you are promoted, while the knowledgeable are put off," could be a description of contemporary American politics. Cleary's able translation retains the liveliness of the original. Recommended for large public libraries or for libraries interested in Islamic spirituality. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Thomas Cleary holds a PhD in East Asian Languages and Civilizations from Harvard University and a JD from the University of California, Berkeley, Boalt Hall School of Law. He is the translator of over fifty volumes of Buddhist, Taoist, Confucian, and Islamic texts from Sanskrit, Chinese, Japanese, Pali, and Arabic. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Great read. Very insightful.

The sayings are so deep and insightful that if you reflect enough, it brings tears to your eyes. It has everything an intelligent person needs to live a right and successful life. The book is a good intro into real islamic thoughts as opposed to what one hears in the media today. The sayings are so concise and pointed that it drives home the point like a bolt of lightening. A must have for anybody who wants to live a good life.

This book is a very easy read, and great collection of the sayings of Imam Ali. I wish that there would have been references and footnotes to see where the author collected the originals. Also, it would have been nice to have access to the original Arabic.

This is an outstanding compilation of Hazarat Ali' wisdom!!! suppose this is the Glorious Part of Islam!

I was pretty closed to Islam. But after reading this it really makes sense.

This is a small book and everyone should have one to Live and Die with grace. These sayings are from a personality earth will never see again. The original book is Nahaj-ul-Balagha (peak of eloquence), collection of sermons, letters and speeches of Hazrat Ali (as), cousin and son-in-law of Hazrat Muhammad (PBUH), the prophet of Islam. These sayings were collected by a shia scholar and made into a book in Arabic and it is translated into many languages. Nahaj-ul- Balagha is available on . The language is so powerful and eloquent and it is a masterpiece covering every aspect of life for every individual. It is not bound to any religion, sect or creed. Even good for an atheist. Online link to Nahaj-ul-Balagha[...]

One should study the teachings of Ali not because he was the 'first Imam' or the 'fourth of the rightly-guided caliphs', but because of their intrinsic worth, their intellectual profundity and spiritual fecundity. This is not to deny Ali's importance as a leader; rather, it is to appreciate that it was because of his wisdom that he was a great leader, or one of the 'true' leaders, as he refers to himself, as opposed to the assertion that he must have been wise because he was a leader. He was a spiritual guide irrespective of his political role, and in a deeper sense, remains a guide now, speaking with compelling power across the centuries in a timeless dialect to all those 'who have ears to hear'. One of the Wisdom From the Book: "Generosity is the protector of the good

reputations, while knowledge is the silencer of the fools. Pardon is the tax on victory, while consolation is your compensation from betrayers. Consultation is a source of guidance, and one who thinks his own view enough runs a risk. Patience makes calamity fade, while anxiety is one of the helpers of the fate." One good book which can be recommended to learn more about this philosopher is *Justice and Remembrance: Introducing the Spirituality of Imam Ali Nahjul Balagha* - full collection of Imam Ali's speeches, sayings, writings, and letters is also available on [Nahjul Balagha](#).

Though much of what the book has to offer, are sayings, it serves as an introduction to what Hadrat Ali's work, *Nahj al Balaghah* has to offer. It is an important contribution to the genre of Islamic literature, though it has been ignored by the Muslims at large, Cleary's efforts are directed as an 'introduction' to a personality that is revered by those who seek the esoteric aspect of Islam: in essence 'Islamic Spirituality'. I would urge the readers to read the compilation of the sermons and letters of Hadrat 'Ali, titled *Nahj al Balaghah*, available in English, titled *Peak of Eloquence*, published by Tehrike Tersile Quran, Elmhurst, New York. -- Ali Abbas

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