

Consultation ⁽¹⁾

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Abstract: any attempt finds its value when it is for a reasonable cause and in a true way, otherwise nothing will be gained but a waste of life time and depression. For this reason it is very important to think and evaluate each program in advance. Upon assessing, if it becomes clear that the program can lead us to a success; it would be wise to put it into practice. If you yourself cannot get a clear picture out of it, it is a very time to consult those ones who are experienced and considerate to give you a better perspective before plucking into the sea! The present study offers some must-have characteristics for an advisor.

Imam ali, "the best one for consultation is the man of experience."

The importance of consultation

The holy prophet said in this regard, "be humble for God to evaluate you, and do not judge unless you have enough information or knowledge. If something was hard to understand for you, do not hesitate to ask, do consult, then act according for if God knows you are honest, he will succeed you."

As you see, the holy prophet also advises people to get the benefit of consultation to be successful.¹

Consultation, the backbone of advancement

Those who wish elevation and getting closer to God and infallible imams should notice that "consultation" is one of the best ways of fulfilling these dreams. The spiritual-advancing-beginners who are not familiar with zahra or sayings of infallible imams which are revealing the true paths for people, should consult the experienced consultants or advisors to use their experiences. They should consult great men who are donated by the gifts of understanding and wisdom, and actually they could pass the way successfully nor the ones who are tired of the way, sitting aside, whispering hopelessness to others!

¹ . Bihar Al-anvar, vol. 21, p. 408

Imam ali introduced consultation to experienced men as a support to guarantee reaching goals, "there is no support for human being like consultation."

To whom should we consult?

Imam sadiq advised us to consult those who are: "consult those wise pious people, because they will not guide you but to good deeds!"

Bear in mind that; in some cases consultation can harm even to the extent that plays havoc on his life!

For this very reason, our infallibles gave us some hints in this regard to hinder any mistakes about consultations.

The one whom you choose as a consultant should be experienced or knowledgeable enough to help. According to the sayings of ahlul-bayt we should consult those who are:

Imam sadiq said, "consult one who has five characteristics:

1. To be wise
2. To be patient and have forbearance
3. To be experienced
4. To be considerate and benevolent
5. To be pious

Consultation has some limitations and conditions which if they are known, consultation would be helpful otherwise its harm would be more than its benefit:

1. The one whom you consult with should be logical and wise.
2. He should be religious and liberated.
3. He should be religious honest like a brother of you.
4. Tell him whatever is needed to be informed about the issue like you and he should be able to keep the secret.

When a consultant is logical and wise, his advise would be beneficial, when he is pious and liberate, he will try to advise you in the best way, when he is honest like a brother of you, he will hide your secrets and when he is informed like you, his consultation would be complete and true.

Consulting an unsuitable person will have the opposite results, as imam ali said, "do not consult one when your logic does not approve him."