khalaphat and verily he knows that Imam is as indispensable to the khalaphat as the peg (nail) of the grinding stone upon which its turning depends is indispensable.

The height of rank and position is such that the fountain of knowledge flows from me and no bird can fly to that height, etc.
......(3) "

The Book of Imam Ali .

All moslems agree and confess that Nahaj - ul - Balaghah, is the scond book in Islam. To my opinion, it is necessary for every student or scholar of Islam of philosophy to study this book which is containing his lectures, advice, exhortation maxims let ters, dealing with social military, civil, judicial, criminal, penal, religious, economical, intellecual, moral, and spiritual subjects.

Undoubtedly, this book is the best means to lead everyblody body to the ture successor of the holy apostle of Islam.

ASTAN QODS PRIODICAL

" Published by the Administration of the Holy Shrine of Imam Reza "

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^{1 —} See sermon No 7, this book is translated by the grand Moslem Mission, Bombay I (India).

Election in Islam.

The Shia - moslems believe that after the prophet Mohammad the election of Islamic khalifah was not free. Before death, he personally had selected Imam Ali son of Abu - Taleb as his formal successor.

The prophet not once declared his cousin Ali as his successor, the tradition of Islam tells us the fact, that he appointed him as legal successor for many times.

To opinion of Shia, Mohammad's choice of Ali as his successor precludes any other form of succession that of natural inheritance. And it has been through the family and lineage of Imam Ali, those who had been introduced by the prophet himself.

Still, the politicians who had

no objection but urged by their personal interests, took advantage of the prophet's illness. Thev prepared the affairs so that, as soon as, the prophet died, they began to elect a candidate of their own. He was Abu Bakr's son of Abu Ghahaphah (1). But a great minority of moslems, who were the prophet's sincere companions such as Abuzer, Meckdad, Sal man, etc openly declared that they shall not follow anybody but Imam Ali, the legal succes sor of Mohammad (2).

Imam Ali's report .

Now it would be better for us to listen cordially to a passage of the best speech(3)of Imam Ali which is a description of the first three khliphs:

"... By God, that person (Abu Bakr) put on the shirt of

^{1 —} See Sirah ebn Hosham: Vil. Il P. 343, Tabary: Vol. Ill P. 198, ebn Kothair: Vol. V P. 242, etc

 ^{2 —} Tabary History : Vol. III P. 21, A, alam - Nnessa Vol : III P. 1206 - 7
 Mosnad Hanabal : Vol. I P. 55, etc ...

^{3 --} Nahaj - Balaghah by Imam Ali.

of leadership and ideal of religion for all followers of Mohammad the prophet. Acceptance of the Khaliphah then, determines the whole course of religion, political and social life.

Indeed the successor of the holy prophet must be a correct example for his followers, in the most minute detail of worship, of problem in Christian sects sects and devotion, of courtesy, humanity, courage, bravery, social interco-

The modern world tends to mininize the importance of religi ous disputes.

urse activities, of business and of

political life.

But this is an open door to religious indifference and materiulism. Therefore, one who is going to accept Islam, its doctrines and teachings, and to have a faith; in the first instant, should know who was the true successor of the prophet, to follow him.

Guidance, or wandering?

It has been said: "One who accepts Islam, is wandering." Don't fear, say he is.

Why? Because he does not Which one of Islamic is right? Shia - School or Which one leads him to a strai ght, the substantive Islam?

Surely, there is the also in the other religions.

So any body may be lucky to accept Islam, but he may go astray! For he cannot distingu ish his way to the substantial and most important subject of Islam, namely the khalafat .

To moslems, therfore this is a matter of life or death; and to others a matter of guidance wandering, so that we enter upon this subject not for the sake of expressing prejudice, but to seek the truth even after fourteen conturies of tradition and religious practice (1).

^{1 —} See Macktabe Tashayyo, a by the same auther.

بخش خارجي

THE ISLAMIC KHALAFAT

What is the meaning of khlafat?
Who was the legal successor of the prophet?

Among the different sects of Islam, which one is the right?



These are some of the questions which may come forward for one who wants to accept Islam even the followers of the Islamic religions may ask about, but they can't be answered by themelves.

We are trying here to reply these questions: All moslems agree. Although the Khalafat (1) is a matter of conflict, among the various branches of Islam a clear understanding of the issues is necessary to all who study the

Islamic religion, although about fourteen centuries pass of its foundation. For moslems the Khalafat transcends all other causes of division, where unity may be attained through compromising minor differences between the sects and stressing the many things in which all moslems agree such as faith in God, faith in his apostle Mohammad, faith in his book the holy Koran, prayer to Ka,ba, and the defence of Islam etc

But compromise in Khalafat is impossible. The correct leader-ship.

WHY IS IT IMPOSSIBLE?

The reason, is that the concept of Khalafat (2) is a matter

^{1 —} It is usually used in English Books, "Caliphate" but we used its correct pronunciaton.

2 — The English writres use "caliph"