‘Sabeel-Allah’ (Way of Allah^azwj^)
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Abbreviations:

saww: - Sal la la ho Allay hay Wa Aal lay he Wasallam
azwj: - Az Za Wa Jalla
asws: - Allay hay Salawat Wass Salam
AJFJ: Ajal Allah hey wa Fara Jaak
ra: - Razi Allah azwj
La: - Laan Allah azwj
In the Name of Allah the Beneficient, the Merciful. The Praise is for Allah Lord of the Worlds, and Blessing be upon our Chief Muhammad and his Purified Progeny, and greetings with abundant greetings.

‘Sabeel-Allah’ (Way of Allah)

Introduction:

Allah has Mentioned ‘Sabeel Allah’ in the Holy Quran in 65 places, it literally means ‘Way of Allah’. However, there is no physical ‘Way of Allah’ so it’s the path or one’s conduct which leads one to the proximity of Allah. How can we achieve this? Simply, one can follow the ‘Way of Allah’ by tracing the foot-steps of the Divine representatives Sent Down by Allah – to follow their Sunnah (traditions), and to submit to their ‘Wilayah’ (Commands) as revealed in the Holy Quran and explained through the Ahadith. For example, Allah Says:

ثَانَِِ عِطْفِهِ لِيُضِلَّ عَنْ سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ ۖ لَهُ فِِ الدُّن ْيَا خِزْيٌ ۖ {وَنُذِيقُهُ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ عَذَابَ الَْْرِيقِ 9:22}

The second (one) in pride turned away from the Way of Allah. For him would be disgrace in the world, and on the Day of Judgment We will Make him taste the Punishment of burning [22:9]

Sharaf Al Deen Al Najafy – Its esoteric explanation has come in the explanations of the People of the Household, from Hamaad Bin Isa, from one of his companions raising it to,

Regarding this: ‘And from the people there is one who disputes regarding Allah with neither having knowledge nor a Guidance nor an illuminating Book [22:8] The second (one) in pride turned away from the Way of Allah [22:9], Amir-Al-Momineen has said: “He is the first one (Abu Bakr), turning away haughtily towards the second one (Umar), and

1 Umar
that is (happened) when Rasool-Allah⁵⁷ saww nominated the Imam Ali⁵⁷ asws as a Guide for the people and they both said: ‘By Allah⁵⁷ azwj! We will deny this for him⁵⁷ saww forever’. ²

ابن شهرآشوب: عن جعفر، و أبو جعفر (عليهما السلام)، في قوله تعالى: اللّذين كفروا: يعني بني أمية.

Ibn Shehr Ashub,

Ja’far⁵⁷ asws and Abu Ja’far⁵⁷ asws regarding the Words of the Exalted: Those who commit Kufr [47:1] - Meaning the Clan of Umayya,

وَ صَنَّوْا عَلَى سَبِيلِ اللّهِ عَن وَلاَيَةِ عَلِيِّ بن أَبِي طَالِبٍ (عَلِيَّهِ السَّلَامَ)

And hinder from the ‘Sabeel الله’ - from the Wilayah of Ali⁵⁷ asws Bin Abu Talib⁵⁷ asws. ³

(It has been narrated) from Abu Abdullah⁵⁷ asws: ‘When the Wilayah of Ali⁵⁷ asws Bin Abu Talib⁵⁷ asws was Revealed, it was from the words of Rasool-Allah⁵⁷ saww: ‘Greet upon Ali⁵⁷ asws as Amir Al-Momineen (The Commander of the Believers)’. And this was from what Allah⁵⁷ azwj had Affirmed upon them both (Abu Bakr and Umar) during that day, O Zayd. The words of Rasool-Allah⁵⁷ saww to them both (Abu Bakr and Umar) were: ‘Arise you both and greet upon him⁵⁷ asws as Amir Al-Momineen⁵⁷ asws. So they said, ‘Is it from Allah⁵⁷ azwj or from His⁵⁷ azwj Rasool⁵⁷ saww, O Rasool-Allah⁵⁷ saww?’ So Rasool-Allah⁵⁷ saww said to them: ‘(It is) from Allah⁵⁷ azwj and His⁵⁷ azwj Rasool⁵⁷ saww. (An extract, see the rest of the Hadith in Appendix).’ ⁴

The Enemies of the ‘Sabeel Allah’:

الذّين كفروا وصُنّوْا عَلَى سَبِيلِ اللّهِ أُضَلَّ أَعْمَالُهُمْ {47:1}

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² تأويل الآيات 1/333
³ نافق 3/72
⁴ Al Kafi V 1 – The Book Of Divine Authority CH 65 H 1
Those who commit Kufr and hinder from the Way of Allah, their deeds would be lost [47:1]

And from him, from Ahmad Bin Muhammad Al-Katib, from Hameed Bin Al-Rabi’e, from Ubeyd Bin Musa, from Fatar Bin Ibrahim,

Abu Al-Hassan asws Musa asws has said: ‘The one who intends to know our asws merits upon our asws enemies, so he should recite this Chapter in which is Mentioned: Those who commit Kufr and hinder from the Way of Allah [47:1]. Regarding us asws is a Verse, and regarding them is a Verse, up to its end’.  

Ibn Shehr Ashub,


The ‘سبيل الله’ (Way of Allah) is Ali asws Ibn Abi Talib asws:

Abu Ja’far asws, said, ‘I asked him asws about this Verse regarding the Words of Allah azwj Mighty and Majestic And whether you are slain in the Way of Allah or you die [3:157]. He asws said: ‘Do you know what is the Way of Allah azwj? I said, ‘No, by Allah azwj’, until I hear it from you asws’.
He **asws** said: ‘سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ’ (The Way of Allah) is **asws** Ali Bin Abu Talib and his **asws** descendants. The one who is killed in his **asws** Wilayah has been killed in the Way of Allah **azwj**, and the one who dies in his **asws** Wilayah has died in the Way of Allah **azwj**.  

Sa’d Bin Abdullah Al Qummy, from Muhammad Bin Al Husayn Bin Abu Al Khattab, from Abdullah Bin Al Mugheira, from the one who narrated it, from Jabir Bin Yazeed,

(It has been narrated) from Abu Ja’far **asws**, said, ‘He **asws** was asked about the Words of Allah **azwj** Mighty and Majestic: *And whether you are slain in the Way of Allah or you die [3:157].*’ He **asws** said: ‘O Jabir! Do you know what is the Way of Allah **azwj**?’ I said, ‘No, by Allah **azwj**’, except when I hear from you **asws**.

فقال: «القتل فِ سبيل الله فِ ولاية عليّ (عليه السلام) و ذريته، ومن قتل فِ ولايته قتل فِ سبيل الله، و ليس من أحد يؤمن بهذه الآية إلا و له قتلة و ميتة، إنه من قتل ينشر حتى يموت، و من يموت ينشر حتى يقتل.»

So he **asws** said: ‘Being killed in the Way of Allah **azwj**’ **asws** is being killed in the Wilayah of Ali **asws** and of his **asws** offspring. So the one who is killed in his **asws** Wilayah is killed in the Way of Allah **azwj**, and there isn’t anyone who believes in this Verse except for him who would be a killing and a (natural) death. The one who is killed would be Resurrected until he dies (a natural death), and the one who is dying (a natural death) would be Resurrected until he is killed (martyred)’.

عليّ بن محمد بن الحسن بن أبي الخطاب، عن عبد الله بن المغيرة، عن جابر بن يزيد، عن أبى جعفر (عليه السلام)، قال: سئل عن قول الله عز و جل: وَ لَئِنْ قُتِلْتُمْ فِِ سَبِيلِ اللَّهِ أَوْ مَتُّ. قال: «يا جابر، أ تدري ما سبيل الله؟ قلت: لا و الله إلا إذا سمعت منك.

عليّ بن محمد، من بعض أصحابنا عن ابن مَُْبُوبٍ عن مَُُمَّدِ بْنِ الْفُضَيْلِ ( عليه السلام ) قَالَ سَأَلْتُهُ عَنْ ق َوْلِ اللَّهِ عَزَّ وَ جَلَّ يُرِيدُونَ لِيُطْفِئُوا نُورَ اللَّهِ بِأَفْواهِهِمْ قَالَ يُرِيدُونَ لِيُطْفِئُوا وَلَيَةَ أَمِيرِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ ( عليه السلام ) بِأَفْواهِهِمْ ق ُلْتُ وَ ُلِّهُ مُتِمُّ نُورِهِ قَالَ وَ اللَّهُ مُتِمُّ الإِْمَامَةِ لِقَوْلِهِ عَزَّ وَ جَلَّ الَّذِينَ فَآمِنُوا بِاللَّهِ وَ رَسُولِهِ وَ النُّورِ الَّذِي أَنْزَلْنَا فَالنُّورُ هُوَ الإِْمَامُ.

Abu Al-Hassan Al-Maazy **asws** (**7th Imam** **asws**), said, ‘I asked Him **asws** about the Words of Allah **azwj** Mighty and Majestic [61:8] They are intending to extinguish the Light of Allah with their mouths. He **asws** said: ‘They are intending to extinguish the Wilayah of Amir Al-Momineen **asws** with their mouths (talking against it)’. I said, ‘*but Allah will Complete His light*.’ He **asws** said: ‘And Allah **azwj** will Complete the Imamat due to His **azwj** Words, the Mighty and Majestic [64:8] Therefore believe in Allah and His Rasool and the Light which We have Sent down. So the Light; it is the Imam **asws**.

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7 معاني الأحاديث: 167 / 1  
8 مختصر بصائر الدرجات: 25
I said, ‘[61:9] He it is Who sent His Messenger with the Guidance and the true Religion’. He\textsuperscript{asws} said: ‘He\textsuperscript{azwj} is Who Commanded His\textsuperscript{saww} Rasool\textsuperscript{saww} with the Wilayah of his\textsuperscript{saww} successor\textsuperscript{asws}, and the Wilayah - is the true Religion’. I said, ‘That He may make it overcome the religions, all of them’. He\textsuperscript{asws} said: ‘Overcome upon the entirety of the Religions during the rising of Al-Qaim\textsuperscript{asws}'.

I said, ‘[63:3] That is because they believe, then disbelieve. He\textsuperscript{asws} said: ‘Allah\textsuperscript{azwj} Blessed and High has Named the one who does not follow His\textsuperscript{azwj} Rasool\textsuperscript{saww} regarding the Wilayah of his\textsuperscript{saww} successor\textsuperscript{asws}, as a hypocrite, and Made the one who rejects the Imamate of his\textsuperscript{saww} successor\textsuperscript{asws} like the one who rejects Muhammad\textsuperscript{saww}, and the Quran was Revealed with that. So He\textsuperscript{azwj} said: “O Muhammad\textsuperscript{saww}! [63:1] When the hypocrites come to you, with the Wilayah of Ali\textsuperscript{asws} they say: We testify that you are Rasool-Allah; and Allah knows that you are His Rasool, and Allah Testifies that the hypocrites with the Wilayah of Ali\textsuperscript{asws}, are liars [63:2] They are making their oaths to be a cover, and thus turning away from Allah’s Way, and Allah\textsuperscript{azwj} Way, it is the successor\textsuperscript{asws}. surely evil is that which they are doing. That is because they are believing in your\textsuperscript{saww} Messenger-ship and are disbelieving in the Wilayah of your\textsuperscript{saww} successor\textsuperscript{asws}. Thus a seal is set upon their hearts so that they do not understand. ...(An extract)\textsuperscript{9}'

\textsuperscript{9} Al Kafi V 1 – The Book Of Divine Authority CH 108 H 91
Momineen Strive towards the ‘Sabeel Allah’

But rather, the Momineen are those who believe in Allah and His Rasool, then they do not doubt, and they strive with their wealth and their selves in the Way of Allah. Those, they are the truthful [49:15]

The Shias are on the ‘Sabeel Allah’

‘I asked (Imam) Al-Askari at Al-Medina about a man who had bequeathed wealth to be in the Way of Allah. So he said: ‘The Way of Allah, is (a reference to) our Shias.’

11 Al Kafi – V 7 – The Book of Bequests Ch 12 H 2
Appendix:

So Allahazwj Mighty and Majestic Revealed [16:91] and do not break the oaths after affirming them, and you have indeed made Allah a surety for you; surely Allah Knows what you are doing, Meaning by it the words of Rasool-Allahsaww to the two of them, and their words, ‘It is from Allahazwj or from Hisazwj Rasoolasww?’ [16:92] And be not like her who unravels her yarn, disintegrating it into pieces after having spun it strongly. You make your oaths to be means of deceit between you so that the Imams would happen to be more virtuous than your own leaders’. (Note – The words in red are different in the current Version of the Holy Quran).

He (the narrator) said, ‘I said, ‘May I be sacrificed for youasws! Imamsasws’!” Heasws said: ‘Yes, by Allahazwj, Imamsasws’. I said, ‘But we are reciting ‘More beneficial’ (بى أَرْبِى’!)’ So heasws said: ‘What is (this word) ‘بى أَرْبِى’?’ And heasws gestured by hisasws hand, so heasws discarded them (indicatively) [16:92] But rather, Allah is Testing you by this, Meaning by Aliasws and He will Clarify to you on the Day of Judgement that which you were differing in [16:93] And had Allah so Desired it He would Make you a single nation, but He Lets err whomsoever He Desires to and Guides whomsoever He Desires to; and you will be Questioned about what you had been doing [16:94] And do not make your oaths a means of deceit between you, lest a foot should slip after its stability Meaning after the words of Rasool-Allahsaww regarding Aliasws and you would taste evil because you turned away from Allah’s Way Meaning by it ‘Aliasws, and a grievous Punishment would be for you’

12 Al Kafi V 1 – The Book Of Divine Authority CH 65 H 1