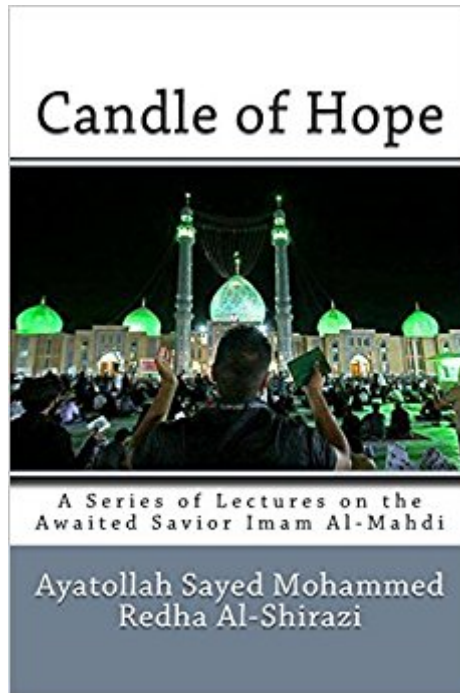




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# Candle Of Hope



## Synopsis

Amongst the topics that he focused on is our master and leader, Imam Al-Mahdi, may Allah hasten his reappearance. He gave a number of speeches throughout his life which addressed many angles pertaining to Imam Al-Mahdi. We deemed it beneficial to gather some of these lectures, which were delivered in Arabic, and translate them into English. We have presented here the translation of five of his lectures on Imam Al-Mahdi. The first lecture is entitled *Significance of Believing in Imam Al-Mahdi*. In the first part of this captivating lecture, Ayatollah Sayed Mohammad Redha Al-Shirazi goes through three factors which demonstrate the great importance of believing in the awaited savior Imam Al-Mahdi. In the second part, he shares several ways by which we can show our concern for Imam Al-Mahdi. Then he concludes by giving us a glimpse of the blessings that lie in believing in the Imam. The second lecture is entitled *The Savior: Hope for Humanity*. In the first part of this captivating lecture, the author goes through the three stages of Mahdawiyya – the concept of believing in the savior. The first stage is shared by all divine religions, while the second stage is held by Muslims, and the third stage is reserved to the Shia only. In the second part, he addresses the benefits of being blessed by the awaited savior Imam Al-Mahdi. The third lecture is entitled *Imam Al-Mahdi's Occultation*. In the first part of this captivating lecture, the author illustrates how the hidden awaited savior represents one of the dimensions of God. Then he gives an account of several prophets of God who also had an occultation (absence) sometime in their lives. In the second part, he makes a few observations regarding the occultation of the awaited savior Imam Al-Mahdi. He explains although the Imam is hidden, nonetheless he carries out important roles in this world. The fourth lecture is entitled *The Role of Imam Al-Mahdi*. In the first part of this captivating lecture, the author offers a theological perspective on the different roles at play in this world. Then he focuses on the role of the awaited savior Imam Al-Mahdi. In the second part, he shares practical steps one can take to become closer to Imam Al-Mahdi and how to benefit from his existence. These steps consist of realizing one's weaknesses, recognizing the greatness of the Imam, and developing one's spiritual capacity by thoroughly purifying one's self. The fifth lecture is entitled *The Era of Reappearance*. In the first part of this captivating lecture, the author gives us a glimpse of the Era of Reappearance – the utopian era humanity is awaiting. He addresses the religious, economic and scientific states that will take place in Imam Al-Mahdi's government. In the second part, he expresses the importance of preparing for the Imam's reappearance, coupled with several examples he draws from Islamic narrations. We ask the Almighty God to elevate his status and multiply his deeds, and may

Allah gather him with Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him and his family, and Ahlul-Bayt, peace be upon them.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Indeed, if every once in a while in history an exceptional human being comes to existence, the late Ayatollah Sayed Mohammad Redha Al-Shirazi was one of them. He was exceptional in every aspect— in his angelic manners, his saint-like behavior, his deep knowledge, his wealth of information, his loyalty to scholarship, his unrelenting faith in God, his burning love for Ahlul-Bayt (peace be upon them), his unmatched level of piety, his profound ability to influence and guide people, his immense level of sincerity and devotion, his fantastic balance between tenderness and firmness, his delicate degree of sensitivity to never hurt others in any way, his fine fatherly figure to his children, his perfect approach in protecting his family, his kind and gentle smile, his utmost respect to everyone around him, his complete obedience and unconditional humbleness towards his parents, his insistence on taking advantage of every second, his abandonment of the materialistic world, his marvelous preparation for the Hereafter, his empathetic tears for Ahlul-Bayt (peace be upon them) and the oppressed, his concern for the youth, and hundreds of other virtues and outstanding qualities that he possessed. Simply put, he was an embodiment of Ahlul-Bayt, peace be upon them. Ayatollah Sayed Mohammad Redha Al-Shirazi, may Allah shower his soul with mercy, was born in the holy city of Karbala in the year 1379 A.H., about half a century ago. He comes from a family known for its scholarship and devotion to Islam. His father is the late Grand Ayatollah Sayed Mohammad Al-Shirazi, and his grandfather is the late Grand Ayatollah Mirza Mahdi Al-Shirazi, may Allah shower their souls with mercy. He spent his early childhood close to the shrine

of Imam Al-Hussain, peace be upon him in Karbala. Then, along with his father, he immigrated to Kuwait as a result of the persecution they were subjected to by the Baathist regime. After spending several years in Kuwait, where he studied well and prepared himself for a new level of scholarship, he migrated to Iran. In Iran he studied under a number of prominent Grand Scholars. Around the time of dawn on the 26th of Jamadi I, 1429 (June 1, 2008) and in obscure circumstances, he departed this world to meet his Lord. His departure struck a great and irreplaceable loss around the world. Millions mourned his loss around the world. He had the honor of being buried in the holy shrine of his grandfather Imam Al-Hussain, peace be upon him.

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