

The Voice of Human Justice

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ادْعُ إِلَى سَبِيلِ رَبِّكَ بِالْحُكْمِ وَالْمَوْعِظَةِ الْحَسَنَةِ
وَجَادِلْهُمْ بِالَّتِي هِيَ أَحْسَنُ إِنَّ رَبَّكَ هُوَ أَعْلَمُ
بِمَن ضَلَّ عَنْ سَبِيلِهِ وَهُوَ أَعْلَمُ بِالْمُهْتَدِينَ

Call unto the way of your Lord with wisdom and good exhortation, and reason with them in the best way. Lo! Your Lord best knows those who go astray from His path, and He knows best those who are rightly guided.

(Qur'an, 16:125)

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ومن كتاب له عليه السلام

إلى الأسود بن قطبة صاحب جند حلوان

أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَإِنَّ الْوَالِيَّ إِذَا اخْتَلَفَ هَوَاهُ مَتَّعَهُ ذَلِكَ كَثِيرًا مِنَ الْعَدْلِ، فَلْيَكُنْ أَمْرُ
النَّاسِ عِنْدَكَ فِي الْحَقِّ سَوَاءً؛ فَإِنَّهُ لَيْسَ فِي الْجَوْرِ عَوَضٌ مِنَ الْعَدْلِ، فَاجْتَنِبْ
مَا تُنْكِرُ أَمْثَالَهُ، وَابْتَذِلْ نَفْسَكَ فِيمَا افْتَرَضَ اللَّهُ عَلَيْكَ، رَاجِعًا ثَوَابَهُ، وَمُتَّخِوْفًا
عِقَابَهُ.

وَاعْلَمْ أَنَّ الدُّنْيَا دَارُ بَلِيَّةٍ لَمْ يَفْرُغْ صَاحِبُهَا فِيهَا قَطُّ سَاعَةً إِلَّا كَانَتْ فَرَعَتْهُ
عَلَيْهِ حَسْرَةٌ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ، وَأَنَّهُ لَنْ يُغْنِيَكَ عَنِ الْحَقِّ شَيْءٌ أَبَدًا؛ وَمِنَ الْحَقِّ
عَلَيْكَ حَفَظُ نَفْسِكَ، وَالِاخْتِسَابُ عَلَى الرَّعِيَّةِ بِجَهْدِكَ، فَإِنَّ الَّذِي يَصِلُ إِلَيْكَ
مِنْ ذَلِكَ أَفْضَلُ مِنَ الَّذِي يَصِلُ بِكَ، وَالسَّلَامُ.

Letter 59 – From Nahj al-Balaghah

To al-Aswad ibn Qutbah, the Governor of Hulwan

Now, if the actions of a governor follow the passions, he will be greatly hampered in justice. All the people should be equal in right before you, because injustice cannot be a substitute for justice. Avoid that thing the like of which you

would not like for yourself. Exert yourself in what Allah has made obligatory on you, hoping for His reward and fearing His chastisement.

Know that this world is the place of trial. Whoever here wastes any hour of his time will repent it on the Day of Judgment, and nothing can ever make you too satisfied as not to need right. One of the rights on you is that you should protect yourself (from sins) and look after the subjects to your best. The benefit that will come to you from this will be greater than that which will accrue (to people) through you; and that is to the matter.

Contents

ARABIAN PENINSULA	15
THE COMING OF THE PROPHET	19
A GLANCE OVER HISTORY	24
THE PROPHET AND ABU TALIB	36
THE PROPHET AND ALI	41
ALI IS MY BROTHER	45
THE ATTRIBUTES OF ALI	54
KNOWLEDGE AND SAGACITY OF ALI	75
HUMAN RIGHTS AND ALI	83
POVERTY AND ITS CONSEQUENCES	89
CONDITIONS PRIOR TO ALI	107
RULER IS ONE OF THE PEOPLE	120
FREEDOM AND ITS SOURCES	133
INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM	144
ACCOUNTABILITY	149
HELPING THE NEEDY	162
NEITHER FANATICISM NOR INFALLIBILITY	182
WAR AND PEACE	190
COMBAT OPPRESSION	204
ADMINISTRATION OF ALI	212

U.N. CHARTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS	229
VALUE OF LIFE AND ALI	235
CONDITIONS PREVAILING AFTER ALI	244
THE TWO FAMILIES OF QURAYSH	266
MU'AWIYA AND HIS SUCCESSORS	276
HUSAYN AND YAZID	295
SUPPORTERS OF THE TWO PARTIES	310
MURDERERS OF UTHMAN	341
THE VOLLEY OF CRITICISM	352
FACTS ABOUT UTHMAN'S MURDER	376
SOME FALSE STATEMENTS	387
A GREAT CONSPIRACY	404
REVOLT AGAINST ALI	418
GOD! BE A WITNESS	442
TWO IMPOSTORS	452
THE DISASTER	473
WAS IT JUSTIFIED?	484
THE DIVINE WILL	492
LET THEM MOURN	497