The Voice of Human Justice

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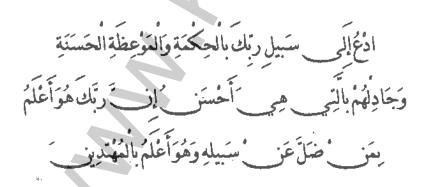


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Call unto the way of your Lord with wisdom and good exhortation, and reason with them in the best way. Lo? Your Lord best knows those who go astray from His path, and He knows best those who are rightly guided.

(Qur'an, 16:125)

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ومز كتاب له عليه السلام

إلى الأسود بن قطبة صاحب جند حلوان

أمَّا بَعدُ، فَإِنَّ الوَالِيَ إِذَا اخْتَلَفَ هَرَاهُ مَنْعَهُ ذَلِكَ كَثِيراً مِنَ الْعَدْلِ، فَلْ يَكُنْ أَمْسُ النَّاسِ عِنْدَكَ فِي الْحَقِّ سَوَاءً، فَإِنَّهُ لَيْسَ فِي الْجَوْرِ عِوضٌ مِنَ العَدْلِ، فَاجْتَنِبُ مَا النَّاسِ عِنْدَكَ فِي الْحَقِّ سَوَاءً، فَإِنَّهُ لَيْسَ فِي الْجَوْرِ عِوضٌ مِنَ العَدْلِ، فَاجْتَنِبُ مَا النَّاسِ عَلَيْكَ، رَاحِياً ثَوَابَهُ، وَمُتَحُوِّفًا مَا اللَّهُ عَلَيْكَ، رَاحِياً ثَوَابَهُ، وَمُتَحُوِّفًا عَقَابَهُ.

وَاعْلَمْ أَنَّ الدُّنيَا ذَارُ بَلِيَّة لَمْ يَفْرُغْ صَاحِبُهَا فِيهَا قَطُّ سَاعَةً إِلاَّ كَانَـتْ فَرْغَتُهُ عَلَيْهِ حَسْرَةً يَوْمَ الْقِيامَةِ، وَأَنَّهُ لَنْ يُغْنِيَكَ عَنِ الْحَقِّ شَيْءٌ ابَسداً؛ وَمِسنَ الْحَقِّ عَلَيْكَ حَفْظٌ نَفْسِكَ، وَالإحْتِسَابُ عَلَى الرَّعِيَّةِ بِجُهْدِكِ، فَإِنَّ الَّذِي يَصِلُ إِلَيْسُكَ مِنْ ذَلِكَ أَفْضَلُ مِنَ الَّذِي يَصِلُ بُكَ، وَالسَّلامُ.

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.

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