

ومن وصية له (عليه السلام) لمعقل بن قيس الرياحي حين أنفذه إلى الشام في ثلاثة آلاف مقدمة له

Instructions given to Ma'qil ibn Qays ar-Riyāhī when he was dispatched to Syria at the head of a vanguard contingent three thousand strong.

اتَّقِ اللَّهَ الَّذِي لَا بُدَّ لَكَ مِنْ لِقَائِهِ، وَلَا مُنْتَهَى لَكَ دُونَهُ، وَلَا تَقَاتِلَنَّ إِلَّا مَنْ قَاتَلَكَ، وَسِرِّ الْبُرْدَيْنِ، وَغَوِّرِ بِالنَّاسِ، وَرَفِّهِ فِي السَّيْرِ، وَلَا تَسِرْ أَوْلَ اللَّيْلِ، فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ جَعَلَهُ سَكَنًا، وَقَدْرَهُ مَقَامًا لَا ظِعْنَ، فَأَرْحِ فِيهِ بَدَنَكَ، وَرُوحَ ظَهْرِكَ، فَإِذَا وَقَفْتَ حِينَ يَنْبَطِحُ السَّحَرُ، أَوْ حِينَ يَنْفَجِرُ الْفَجْرُ، فَسِرْ عَلَى بَرَكَةِ اللَّهِ.

Fear Allāh before Whom attendance is inevitable, and with other than Whom there is no meeting. Do not fight except with those who fight you. Travel in the two cool periods (i.e., morning and evening). Let the men have a midday sleep. March easily and do not travel during the early night for Allāh has made it for resting and has ordained it for staying, not for journeying. Therefore, give rest to your body in the night and let your carrier-beasts also rest. When you are sure that morning has appeared and when dawn has dawned, commence your journey with Allāh's blessings.

فَإِذَا لَقَيْتَ الْعَدُوَّ فَقفْ مِنْ أَوْسَاطِهِمْ وَسَطًا، وَلَا تَدْنُ مِنَ الْقَوْمِ دُنُوًّا مِنْ يُرِيدُ أَنْ يَنْشِبَ الْحَرْبَ، وَلَا تَبَاعِدْ عَنْهُمْ تَبَاعُدَ مَنْ يَهَابُ الْبَأْسَ، حَتَّى يَأْتِيكَ أَمْرِي، وَلَا يَحْمِلَنَّكُمْ شَتَانُهُمْ عَلَى قِتَالِهِمْ، قَبْلَ دَعَائِهِمْ وَالْإِعْذَارِ إِلَيْهِمْ.

If and when you face the enemy stand in the midst of your comrades. Do not get too near the foe like one who wants to commence the fighting, nor remain too distant like one who is afraid of action, till you receive my orders. Hatred for them should not lead you to fight before inviting them (to guidance) and exhausting your pleas before them.