

ومن وصية له (عليه السلام) كان يكتبها لمن يستعمله على الصدقات

Amīr al-mu'minīn used to write to whoever he appointed for the the collection of zakāt and charities.

(قال السيد الرضى:) وإنما ذكرنا هنا جملاً ليعلم بها أنه (عليه السلام) كان يقيم عماد الحق، ويشرع أمثلة العدل، في صغير الأمور وكبيرها، ودقيقها وجليلها:

(as-Sayyid ar-Raḍī says:) We have recorded a few portions of it here to show that he always erected the pillars of right and created examples of justice in all matters, small or big, delicate or serious.

انطلق على تقوى الله وحده لا شريك له، ولا ترو عن مسلماً، ولا تجتازن عليه كارهاً، ولا تأخذن منه أكثر من حق الله في ماله. فإذا قدمت على الحي فإنزل بمائهم من غير أن تخالط أبياتهم، ثم امض إليهم بالسكينة والوقار، حتى تقوم بينهم فتسلم عليهم، ولا تخرج بالتحية لهم، ثم تقول: عباد الله، أرسلني إليكم ولي الله وخليفته، لاخذ منكم حق الله في أموالكم، فهل لله في أموالكم من حق فتؤدوه إلى وليه؟

Move on with the fear of Allāh Who is One and has no partner. Do not frighten any Muslim. Do not pass over his lands so as to make him feel unhappy. Do not take from him more than Allāh's share in his property. When you go to a tribe, you should get down at their watering place instead of entering their houses. Then proceed towards them with peace and dignity till you stand among them. Then salute them and do not be remiss in greeting them, then say to them, "O' servants of Allāh, the vicegerent of Allāh and His caliph has sent me to you to collect from you Allāh's share in your properties. Is there anything of His share in your properties? If so, give it to His vicegerent."

فإن قال قائل: لا، فلا تراجع، وإن أنعم لك منعم، فانطلق معه من غير أن تخيفه أو توعدة أو تعسفه أو ترهقه، فخذ ما أعطاك من ذهب أو فضة، فإن كان له ماشية أو إبل فلا تدخلها إلا بإذنه، فإن أكثرها له، فإذا أتيتها فلا تدخل عليها دخول متسلط عليه ولا عنيف به، ولا تنفرن بهيمة ولا تفزعنها، ولا تسوان صاحبها فيها.

If someone among them says "No", then do not repeat the demand. If someone speaks to you in the affirmative, then go with him without frightening him, threatening him, pressuring him or oppressing him. Take what he gives you such as gold or silver (coins). If he has cattle or camels do not enter upon them save with his permission, because their major part is his. Therefore, when you get there do not enter upon them like one who has full control over them or in a violent manner. Do not scare any animal, do not tease anyone and do not let the owner feel grieved about anyone.

وَإِصْدَعِ الْمَالَ صِدْعَيْنِ، ثُمَّ خَيْرِهِ، فَإِذَا اخْتَارَ فَلَا تَعْرِضْ لِمَا اخْتَارَهُ، ثُمَّ اصْدَعِ الْبَاقِيَ صِدْعَيْنِ، ثُمَّ خَيْرِهِ، فَإِذَا اخْتَارَ فَلَا تَعْرِضْ لِمَا اخْتَارَهُ، فَلَا تَزَالُ كَذَلِكَ حَتَّى يَبْقَى مَا فِيهِ وَفَاءٌ لِحَقِّ اللَّهِ فِي مَالِهِ، فَاقْبِضْ حَقَّ اللَّهِ مِنْهُ، فَإِنْ اسْتَقَالَكَ فَأَقْلِهِ، ثُمَّ اخْلُطْهُمَا، ثُمَّ اصْنَعْ مِثْلَ الَّذِي صَنَعْتَ أَوْ لَا حَتَّى تَأْخُذَ حَقَّ اللَّهِ فِي مَالِهِ.

Divide the property into two parts and let the owner choose one. When he has chosen do not object to it. Then divide the remaining into two parts and let him choose one and when he has chosen do not raise any objection. Continue like this till only that much remains which is enough to satisfy Allāh's dues. Then take Allāh's due from it. If he disputes your action allow his views, then mix the two (separated) parts and repeat what you had done before till you take Allāh's due from his property.

وَلَا تَأْخُذْ عَوْدًا، وَلَا هَرَمَةً، وَلَا مَكْسُورَةً، وَلَا مَهْلُوسَةً، وَلَا ذَاتَ عَوَارٍ. وَلَا تَأْمَنْ عَلَيْهَا إِلَّا مَنْ تَتَّقُ بَدِينِهِ، رَافِقًا بِمَالِ الْمُسْلِمِينَ حَتَّى يُوَصِّلَهُ إِلَى وِلِيِّهِمْ فَيَقْسِمَهُ بَيْنَهُمْ. وَلَا تُوَكِّلْ بِهَا إِلَّا نَاصِحًا شَفِيقًا، وَأَمِينًا حَفِيزًا، غَيْرَ مَعْنِفٍ وَلَا مَجْحِفٍ، وَلَا مَلْغِبٍ وَلَا مَتَعِبٍ. ثُمَّ احْدِرْ إِلَيْنَا مَا اجْتَمَعَ عِنْدَكَ، نَصِيرُهُ حَيْثُ أَمَرَ اللَّهُ بِهِ.

Do not take an old, decrepit, broken-limbed, sick or unsound animal. Do not entrust the animals (for custody) except to one whom you trust to take care of Muslims' property till he hands it over to their chief who will distribute it. Do not entrust it to anyone except he who is a well wisher, God-fearing, trustworthy and watchful, and who is not harsh on Muslims' property, nor makes them run too much, nor tires them, nor labours them. Then send to us all that you have collected and we shall deal with it as Allāh has ordered.

فَإِذَا أَخَذَهَا أَمِينُكَ فَأَوْعِزْ إِلَيْهِ: أَلَّا يَحُولَ بَيْنَ نَاقَةٍ وَبَيْنَ فَصِيلِهَا، وَلَا يَمْصُرَ لِنَيْهَا فَيَضُرَّ [فَيَضُرَّ] ذَلِكَ بَوْلِهَا، وَلَا يَجْهَدُ بِهَا رُكُوبًا، وَلَا يَعْدِلُ بَيْنَ صَوَابِحَاتِهَا فِي ذَلِكَ وَبَيْنَهَا، وَلِيُفْرِغَ عَلَى اللَّائِغِ، وَلِيَسْتَأْنِ بِالذَّقِّ وَالظَّالِعِ، وَلِيُورِدَهَا مَا تَمَرُّ بِهِ مِنَ الْغَدْرِ، وَلَا يَعْدِلُ بِهَا عَنِ نَبْتِ الْأَرْضِ إِلَى جَوَادِ الطَّرِيقِ، وَلِيُرَوِّحَهَا فِي السَّاعَاتِ، وَلِيَمِيلَهَا عِنْدَ النَّطَافِ وَالْأَعْشَابِ، حَتَّى تَأْتِيَنَا يَا ذَنُّ اللَّهِ بِدُنَا مَنْقِيَاتٍ، غَيْرِ مَتْعَبَاتٍ وَلَا مَجْهُودَاتٍ، لِنَقْسِمَهَا عَلَى كِتَابِ اللَّهِ وَسُنَّةِ نَبِيِّهِ (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ) فَإِنَّ ذَلِكَ أَعْظَمُ لِأَجْرِكَ، وَأَقْرَبُ لِرِشْدِكَ، إِنْ شَاءَ اللَّهُ.

When your trustee takes over (the animal) tell him that he should not separate the she-camel from its young and should not milk all its milk because that would affect its young, and also that he should not exert it in riding. In this matter, he should behave justly between it and all its companions. He should allow rest to camels (who are tired), and drive with ease those whose hoofs have been rubbed off. When you pass a water spring stay the camels there for drinking and do not take them away from vegetated land to barren paths. He should allow them rest now and then, and give them time near water and grass. In this way, when they reach us by leave of Allāh, they will be fat with plenty of marrow and would not be fatigued or

distressed. We will then distribute them according to the (commands of) the Book of Allāh and the sunnah of His Prophet (peace be upon him and his progeny). Certainly, this will be a great source of reward for you and a means to secure guidance, if Allāh so wills.