

ومن كتاب له (عليه السلام) إلى بعض عماله، وقد بعثه على الصدقة

Instruction given to one of his officers whom he sent for the collection of zakāt and charities

أَمَرَهُ بِتَقْوَى اللَّهِ فِي سَرَائِرِ أُمُورِهِ وَخَفِيَّاتِ عَمَلِهِ، حَيْثُ لَا شَهِيدَ غَيْرَهُ، وَلَا وَكِيلَ دُونَهُ.

He (Amīr al-mu'minīn) ordered him to fear Allāh in his secret matters and hidden actions, where there is no witness except He and no one watches save He.

وَأَمَرَهُ أَلَّا يَعْمَلَ بِشَيْءٍ مِنْ طَاعَةِ اللَّهِ فِيمَا ظَهَرَ فَيُخَالِفَ إِلَى غَيْرِهِ فِيمَا أَسْرَ، وَمَنْ لَمْ يَخْتَلِفْ سِرَّهُ وَعَلَانِيَتَهُ، وَفَعَلَهُ وَمَقَالَتَهُ، فَقَدْ أَدَّى الْأَمَانَةَ، وَأَخْلَصَ الْعِبَادَةَ.

He also orders him that whatever he does in obedience to Allāh openly should not be different from what he does secretly. He whose hidden position is not different from his open position, and whose action is not different from his words, has discharged his obligation and his worship is pure.

وَأَمَرَهُ أَلَّا يَجْهَرُ بِهِمْ، وَلَا يَعْصَهُمْ، وَلَا يَرْغَبَ عَنْهُمْ تَفْضُلًا بِالْإِمَارَةِ عَلَيْهِمْ، فَإِنَّهُمْ الْإِخْوَانُ فِي الدِّينِ، وَالْأَعْوَانُ عَلَى اسْتِخْرَاجِ الْحَقُوقِ.

He also ordered him that he should not harass them, should not be harsh on them and should not turn away from them because of superiority of official position over them, because they are brethren in faith and help in the recovery of levies.

وَإِنَّ لَكَ فِي هَذِهِ الصَّدَقَةِ نَصِيبًا مَفْرُوضًا، وَحَقًّا مَعْلُومًا، وَشُرَكَاءَ أَهْلِ مَسْكِنَةٍ، وَضِعْفًا ذَوِي فَاقَةٍ، وَإِذَا مَوْفُوكَ حَقُّكَ، فَوْفَهُمْ حَقُّوهُمْ، وَإِلَّا تَفْعَلْ فَإِنَّكَ مِنْ أَكْثَرِ النَّاسِ خَصُومًا يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ، وَيُؤْسَا لِمَنْ خَصَمَهُ عِنْدَ اللَّهِ الْفُقَرَاءُ وَالْمَسَاكِينُ وَالسَّائِلُونَ وَالْمَدْفُوعُونَ وَالْغَارِمُ وَابْنُ السَّبِيلِ!

Certainly, you have a fixed share and a known right in this levy, and there are other sharers who are poor, weak and starving. We shall discharge your rights. So, you should discharge their rights. If you do not do so you will have the largest number of enemies on the Day of Judgement. How wretched is the man whose enemies in the view of Allāh are the needy, the destitute, the beggars, the turned away, the indebted and (penniless) travellers.

وَمِنْ اسْتِهَانٍ بِالْأَمَانَةِ، وَرَتَعَ فِي الْخِيَانَةِ، وَلَمْ يَنْزِهِ نَفْسَهُ وَدِينَهُ عَنْهَا، فَقَدْ أَحْلَى بِنَفْسِهِ الذُّلَّ وَالْخِزْيَ فِي الدُّنْيَا، وَهُوَ فِي الْآخِرَةِ أَذَلُّ وَأَخْزَى.

He who treats the trust lightly and indulges in treachery and does not keep himself and his faith untarnished by it has certainly secured humiliation in this world, and his humiliation and disgrace in the next world will be greater.

وَإِنَّ أَعْظَمَ الْخِيَانَةِ خِيَانَةُ الْأُمَّةِ، وَأَفْظَعَ الْغِشِّ غِشُّ الْأَئِمَّةِ، وَالسَّلامُ.

Surely, the greatest treachery is the treachery against the Muslim community, and the ugliest deceit is the deceit towards the Muslim leaders; and that is an end to the matter.