

ومن كتاب له (عليه السلام) إلى أهل البصرة

To the People of Başrah

وَقَدْ كَانَ مِنْ انْتِشَارِ حَبْلِكُمْ وَشِقَاقِكُمْ مَا لَوْ تَغَبَّوْا عَنْهُ، فَعَفَوْتُ عَنْ مُجْرِمِكُمْ، وَرَفَعْتُ السَّيْفَ عَنْ مُدْبِرِكُمْ، وَقَبِلْتُ مِنْ مُقْبِلِكُمْ. فَإِنْ خَطَبَتْ بِكُمْ الْأُمُورُ الْمَرِيدِيَّةَ، وَسَفَهُ الْإِرَاءِ الْجَائِرَةَ. إِلَيَّ مَنَابِذَتِي وَخِلَافِي، فَهِيَ أَنَا ذَا قَدْ قَرَبْتُ جِيَادِي، وَرَحَلْتُ رِكَابِي. وَلِئِنْ أَلْجَأْتُمُونِي إِلَيَّ الْمَسِيرِ إِلَيْكُمْ، لِأَوْعِينَ بِكُمْ وَقِعَةَ لَا يَكُونُ يَوْمَ الْجَمَلِ إِلَيْهَا إِلَّا كَلْعَقَةِ لَاعِقٍ، مَعَ أَذْيِ عَارِفٍ لِذِي الطَّاعَةِ مِنْكُمْ فَضْلَهُ، وَلِذِي النَّصِيحَةِ حَقَّهُ، غَيْرَ مُتَجَاوِزِ مَتَهُمَا إِلَى بَرِي، وَلَا نَاكِثًا إِلَيَّ وَفِي.

Whatever disunity and schism you have is not hidden to you. I have forgiven your wrong-doers and held back my sword from those who ran away. I received everyone who came to me from among you. If devastating matters and wrong and silly views are prompting you to break the pledge with me and to oppose me then (listen) I have kept ready my horses and put saddles (on my riding camels), and if you force me to advance towards you I shall come down in such a manner that before it the battle of Jamal too would appear like the last licking of the tongue. At the same time I know the high position of the obedient among you and the right of the sincere without confusing the sinless with the offenders or the faithful with the pledge-breakers.