

ومن كتاب له (عليه السلام) إلى بعض عماله

To One of his Officers

أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَإِنَّكَ مِمَّنْ أَسْتَظْهِرُ بِهِ عَلَى إِقَامَةِ الدِّينِ، وَأَقْمَعُ بِهِ نَحْوَةَ الْأَثِيمِ، وَأَسُدُّ بِهِ لِهَيْبَةِ الشَّعْرِ الْمَخُوفِ. فَاسْتَعِنَ بِاللَّهِ عَلَى مَا أَمَرَكَ، وَأَخْلَطَ الشَّدِيدَ بِضَعْفِ مِنَ اللَّيِّنِ؛ وَإِرْفَقَ مَا كَانَ الرِّفْقُ أَرْفَقَ، وَاعْتَزِمَ بِالشَّدِيدِ حِينَ لَا تَغْنِي عَنْكَ إِلَّا الشَّدِيدُ، وَأَخْفَضَ لِلرَّعِيَّةِ جَنَاحَكَ، وَأَبْسَطَ لَهُمْ وَجْهَكَ وَأَلَّنَ لَهُمْ جَانِبَكَ، وَأَسَّ بَيْنَهُمْ فِي اللَّحْظَةِ وَالنَّظَرَةِ، وَالْإِشَارَةِ وَالتَّحِيَّةِ، حَتَّى لَا يَطْمَعُ الْعِظْمَاءُ فِي حَيْفِكَ، وَلَا يَيْئَسُ الضُّعَفَاءُ مِنْ عَدْلِكَ، وَالسَّلَامُ.

Now, you are surely one of those whose help I take in establishing religion and with whose help I break the haughtiness of the sinful and guard critical boundaries. You should seek Allāh's help in whatever causes you anxiety. Add a little harshness to the mixture of leniency and remain lenient where leniency is more appropriate. Adopt harshness when you cannot do without harshness. Bend your wings (in humbleness) before the subjects. Meet them with your face broad and keep yourself lenient (in behaviour) with them. Treat them equally in looking at them with half eyes or full eyes, in signalling and in greeting so that the great should not expect transgression on your part and the weak should not lose hope in your justice; and that is an end to the matter.