

ومن كتاب له (عليه السلام) إلى أمرائه على الجيوش

To the officers of his army

مِنْ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ عَلِيِّ أَمِيرِ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ إِلَى أَصْحَابِ الْمَسَاحِ

From the servant of Allāh, 'Alī, Amīr al-mu'minīn to the Officer-in-charge of garrisons :

أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَإِنَّ حَقًّا عَلَى الْوَالِيِّ الْأَيْ يُغَيِّرُهُ عَلَى رِعِيَّتِهِ فَضْلُ نَالِهِ، وَلَا طَوْلُ خُصِّ بِهِ، وَأَنْ يَزِيدَهُ مَا قَسَمَ اللَّهُ لَهُ مِنْ نِعْمَةٍ دُنُوًا مِنْ عِبَادِهِ، وَعَظْفًا عَلَى إِخْوَانِهِ.

Now, it is obligatory on an officer that the distinction he achieves, or the wealth with which he has been exclusively endowed, should not make him change his behaviour towards those under him, and that the riches Allāh has bestowed on him should increase him in nearness to his people and kindness over his brethren.

أَلَا وَإِنَّ لَكُمْ عِنْدِي إِلَّا أَلَّا أُجْتَجَزَ دُونَكُمْ سِرًّا إِلَّا فِي حَرْبٍ، وَلَا أُطَوِّي دُونَكُمْ أَمْرًا إِلَّا فِي حُكْمٍ، وَلَا أُؤْخِرُ لَكُمْ حَقًّا عَنْ مَجَلِهِ، وَلَا أَقْبُ بِهِ دُونَ مَقْطَعِهِ، وَأَنْ تَكُونُوا عِنْدِي فِي الْحَقِّ سَوَاءً، فَإِذَا فَعَلْتُمْ ذَلِكَ وَجِبَتْ لَكُمْ النِّعْمَةُ، وَلِي عَلَيْكُمْ الطَّاعَةُ، وَالْأَلَّا تَنْكَسُوا عَنِ دَعْوَةٍ، وَلَا تَقْرَبُوا فِي صَلَاحٍ، وَأَنْ تَخَوْضُوا الْغِمْرَاتِ إِلَى الْحَقِّ، فَإِنْ أَنْتُمْ لَمْ تَسْتَقِيمُوا لِي عَلَيَّ ذَلِكَ لَمْ يَكُنْ أَحَدٌ أَهْوَنَ عَلَيَّ مِنْكُمْ، ثُمَّ أَعْظَمَ لَهُ الْعُقُوبَةُ، وَلَا يَجِدُ عِنْدِي فِيهَا رِخْصَةً، فَخَذُوا هَذَا مِنْ أَمْرَائِكُمْ، وَأَعْطَوْهُمْ مِنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ مَا يَصْلِحُ اللَّهُ بِهِ أَمْرَكُمْ. وَالسَّلَامُ.

Beware, that it is obligatory for you on me that I should not keep anything secret from you except during war, nor should I decide any matter without consulting you except the commands of religion, nor should I ignore the fulfilment of any of your rights nor desist till I discharge it fully, and that for me all of you should be equal in rights. When I have done all this, it becomes obligatory on you to thank Allāh for this bounty and to obey me, and you should not hold back when called, nor shirk good acts, and you should face hardships for the sake of right. If you do not remain steadfast in this, there will be no one more humiliated in my view than the one among you who has deviated, and then I will increase the punishment for him, wherein no one will get any concession from me. Take this (pledge) from your (subordinate) officers and accord to them such behaviour from your side by which Allāh may improve your matters; and that is an end to the matter.