

ومن كتاب له (عليه السلام) إلى أمرائه على الجيوش

To the officers of his army

مِنْ عَبْدِ اللَّهِ عَلِيِّ [بْنِ أَبِي طَالِبٍ] 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 الْوَالِي أَلَّا يَغْيِرَهُ عَلَى رِعِيَّتِهِ فَضْلُ نَالِهِ، وَلَا طَوْلُ خُصِّ بِهِ، وَأَنْ يَزِيدَهُ مَا قَسَمَ اللَّهُ لَهُ مِنْ نِعْمِهِ دُنُوًّا 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 أَلَّا أُحْتَجَزَ دُونَكُمْ سِرًّا إِلَّا فِي حَرْبٍ، وَلَا أُطْوَى دُونَكُمْ أَمْرًا إِلَّا فِي حُكْمٍ، وَلَا أُؤْخَرُ لَكُمْ حَقًّا عَنْ مَحَلِّهِ، وَلَا أُقْفَ بِهِ دُونَ مَقْطَعِهِ، وَأَنْ تَكُونُوا عِنْدِي فِي الْحَقِّ سَوَاءً.

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 fulfillment of any of your rights nor desist till I discharge it fully, and that for me all of you should be equal in rights.

فَإِذَا فَعَلْتُ ذَلِكَ وَجِبَتْ لِلَّهِ عَلَيْكُمْ النِّعْمَةُ، وَلِي عَلَيْكُمْ الطَّاعَةُ، وَأَلَّا تَنْكُصُوا عَنْ دَعْوَةٍ، وَلَا تَفْرِطُوا فِي صَلَاحٍ، وَأَنْ تَخَوْضُوا الْغَمْرَاتِ إِلَيَّ الْحَقِّ، فَإِنَّ أَنْتُمْ لَمْ تَسْتَقِيمُوا لِي عَلَيَّ ذَلِكَ لَمْ يَكُنْ أَحَدٌ أَهْوَنَ عَلَيَّ مِنْكُمْ، ثُمَّ أَعْظَمَ لَهُ الْعُقُوبَةَ، وَلَا يَجِدُ عِنْدِي فِيهَا رِخْصَةً، فَخَذُوا هَذَا مِنْ أَمْرَائِكُمْ، وَأَعْطَوْهُمْ مِنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ مَا يَصْلِحُ اللَّهُ بِهِ أَمْرَكُمْ. وَالسَّلَامُ.

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.

