

ومن كتاب له (عليه السلام) إلى سلمان الفارسي (رحمه الله) قبل أيام خلافته

To Salmān al-Fārisī before Amīr al-mu'minīn's caliphate

أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَإِذَا مِثْلُ الدُّنْيَا مِثْلُ الْحَيَّةِ: لِيَنْ مَسَّهَا، قَاتِلٌ سُمُّهَا، فَأَعْرَضَ عَمَّا يُعْجِبُ فِيهَا، لِقَلَّةِ مَا يَصْحَبُ مِنْهَا، وَضَعَّ عَنْكَ هَمُّومَهَا، لَمَّا أُيْقِنْتَ بِهِ مِنْ فِرَاقِهَا، وَتَصَرَّفَ حَالَاتِهَا، وَكُنْ أَنْسَ مَا تَكُونُ بِهَا، أَحْذِرْ مَا تَكُونُ مِنْهَا، فَإِنَّ صَاحِبَهَا كَلَّمَ مَا أَطْمَأَنَّ فِيهَا إِلَى سُرُورِ أَشْخَصْتَهُ عَنْهُ إِلَى مَحْذُورٍ، أَوْ إِلَى إِيْنَاسٍ أزالته عنه إلى إِيْحَاشٍ وَالسَّلَامِ.

Now, the example of the world is like that of a snake which is soft in touch but whose poison is fatal. Therefore, keep yourself aloof from whatever appears good to you because of its short stay with you. Do not worry for it because of your conviction that it will leave you and that its circumstances are vicissitudes. When you feel most attracted towards it, shun it most, because whenever someone is assured of happiness in it, it throws him into danger; or when he feels secure in it, the world alters his security into fear; and that is an end to the matter.