

ومن كتاب له (عليه السلام) إلى عبد الله بن العباس

To 'Abdullāh ibn al-'Abbās

أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَإِنَّكَ لَسْتَ بِسَابِقِ أَجَلِكَ، وَلَا مِرْزُوقٍ مَا لَيْسَ لَكَ. وَإِعْلَمْ بِأَنَّ الدَّهْرَ يَوْمَانِ: يَوْمٌ لَكَ وَيَوْمٌ عَلَيْكَ، وَأَنَّ الدُّنْيَا دَارُ دُولٍ، فَمَا كَانَ مِنْهَا لَكَ أَتَاكَ عَلَى ضَعْفِكَ، وَمَا كَانَ مِنْهَا عَلَيْكَ لَمْ تَدْفَعْهُ بِقُوَّتِكَ.

Now, you cannot go farther than the limit of your life, nor can you be given a livelihood which is not for you. Remember that this life consists of two days - a day for you and a day against you, and that the world is a house (changing) authorities. Whatever in it is for you will come to you despite your weakness; and whatever in it turns against you cannot be brought back despite your strength.