

ومن كتاب له (عليه السلام) إلى معاوية

To Mu'āwiyah

أَمَّا بَعْدُ، فَيَا بِي عَالِي التَّرْدُدِ فِي جَوَابِكَ، وَالِاسْتِمَاعِ إِلَيَّ كِتَابِكَ، لِمُوهِنِ رَأْيِي، وَمُخْطِئِ فِرَاسَتِي. وَإِذْكَ إِذْ تَحَاوَلْتَنِي الْأُمُورَ
وَتَرَاوَجْتَنِي السُّطُورَ، كَالْمُسْتَقْبَلِ النَّائِمِ تَكْذِبُهُ أَحْلَامُهُ، وَالْمُتَحَيِّرِ الْقَائِمِ يَبْهَظُهُ مَقَامُهُ، لَا يَدْرِي أَلَهُ مَا يَأْتِي أَمْ عَلَيْهِ؟ وَلَسْتُ بِهِ غَيْرَ أَذْهُ
بِكَ شَيْئِهِ.

Now, (in) exchanging replies and listening to your letters my view has been weak and my intelligence has been erring. When you refer your demands to me and expect me to send you written replies, you are like one who is in deep slumber while his dreams contradict him, or one who stands perplexed and overwhelmed, not knowing whether whatever comes to him is for him or against him. You are not such a man but he is (to some extent) like you (as you are worse than him).

وَأُقْسِمُ بِاللَّهِ إِنَّهُ لَوْ لَا بَعْضُ الْإِسْتِقَاءِ لَوَصَلَتْ إِلَيْكَ مِنِّي قَوَارِعُ، تَقْرَعُ الْعِظْمَ، وَتَهْلِسُ اللَّحْمَ!

I swear by Allāh that, had it not been for (my) giving you time, you would have faced from me catastrophe that would have crushed the bones and removed the flesh.

وَاعْلَمْ أَنَّ الشَّيْطَانَ قَدْ تَبَطَّكَ عَنْ أَنْ تُرَاجِعَ أَحْسَنَ أُمُورِكَ، وَتَأْذَنَ لِمَقَالِ نَصِيحَتِكَ، وَالسَّلَامَ لِأَهْلِهِ.

Know that Satan has prevented you from turning to good actions and listening to the words of counsels. Peace be upon those who deserve it.