

١٠٨. وَقَالَ (عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ): لَقَدْ عَلِقَ بِنِيَّاطِ هَذَا الْإِنْسَانِ بَضْعَةٌ هِيَ أَعْجَبُ مَا فِيهِ وَ ذَلِكَ الْقَلْبُ وَ ذَلِكَ أَنْ لَهُ مَوَادٌّ مِنْ الْحِكْمَةِ وَأُضْدَادًا مِنْ خِلَافِهَا فَإِنْ سَنَحَ لَهُ الرِّجَاءُ أَذْلَهُ الطَّمَعُ وَإِنْ هَاجَ بِهِ الطَّمَعُ أَهْلَكَهُ الْحَرَصُ وَإِنْ مَلَكَهُ الْيَأْسُ قَتَلَهُ الْاِسْفُ وَإِنْ عَرَضَ لَهُ الْغَضَبُ اشْتَدَّ بِهِ الْغَيْظُ وَإِنْ أَسْعَدَهُ الرِّضَى نَسِيَ التَّحَفُظَ وَإِنْ غَالَهُ الْخَوْفُ شَغَلَهُ الْحَذَرُ وَإِنْ اتَّسَعَ لَهُ الْأَمْرُ اسْتَلْبَثَتْهُ الْغَرَّةُ وَإِنْ أَفَادَ مَالًا أَطْغَاهُ الْغَنَى وَإِنْ أَصَابَتْهُ مَصِيبَةٌ فَضَحَّحَهُ الْجَزَعُ وَإِنْ عَضَّتْهُ الْفَاقَةُ شَغَلَهُ الْبَلَاءُ وَإِنْ جَهَدَهُ الْجُوعُ قَعَدَ بِهِ الضَّعْفُ وَإِنْ أَفْرَطَ بِهِ الشَّبَعُ كَظَمَتْهُ الْبُطْنَةُ فَكُلُّ تَقْصِيرٍ بِهِ مُضِرٌّ وَكُلُّ إِفْرَاطٍ لَهُ مُفْسِدٌ.

108. Amīr al-mu'minīn, peace be upon him, said: In man there is a piece of flesh attached to him with a vein and it is the strangest thing in him. It is the heart. It has a store of wisdom and things contrary to wisdom. If it sees a ray of hope, eagerness humiliates it and when eagerness increases, greed ruins it. If disappointment overtakes it, grief kills it. If anger rises in it, a serious rage develops. If it is blessed with pleasure, it forgets to be cautious. If it becomes fearing, it becomes heedless. If peace extends all round, it becomes neglectful. If it earns wealth, freedom from care puts it in the wrong. If trouble befalls it, impatience makes it humble. If it faces starvation, distress overtakes it. If hunger attacks it, weakness makes it sit down. If its eating increases, heaviness of stomach pains it. Thus, every shortness is harmful to it and every excess is injurious to it.