

١٧٠. وَقَالَ (عليه السلام): تَرَكُ الذَّنْبَ أَهْوَنُ مِنْ طَلَبِ التَّوْبَةِ.

170. Amīr al-mu'minīn, peace be upon him, said: Abstention from sin is easier than seeking forgiveness afterwards. [1]

Footnote :

[1] It is not as difficult to keep aloof from sin the first time as it is after becoming familiar with it and tasting it, because a man does not feel difficulty in doing a thing to which he has become habituated, but it is really hard to give it up. As habits become confirmed, the conscience becomes weaker and difficulties crop up in the way of repentance. To console the heart by postponing repentance is therefore usually with out avail. Surely, when there is difficulty in keeping off sin even in the beginning the lengthening of the period of sins will make repentance still more difficult.