

٢٦٣. وَقَالَ (عليه السلام): صَاحِبُ السُّلْطَانِ كَرَائِبِ الْأَسَدِ : يُغْبَطُ بِمَوْقِعِهِ، وَهُوَ أَعْلَمُ بِمَوْضِعِهِ.

263. Amīr al-mu'minīn, peace be upon him, said: The holder of authority is like the rider on a lion — he is envied for his position but he well knows his position. [1]

Footnote :

[1] The intention is that if a person holds high position in the royal court people look at his rank and position and honour and prestige with envy, but he himself has always the fear lest the royal pleasure turns against him and he falls in the pit of disgrace and dishonour or death and destruction, like the rider on a lion with by whom people are awed, but he himself is ever facing the danger lest the lion devours him, or throws him in some fatal pit.