

وقيل له (عليه السلام) لو سدَّ على رجلٍ بابُ بيته، وتركَ فيه من أين كان يأتيه رزقه؟ فقال (عليه السلام):

356. It was said to Amīr al-mu'minīn, peace be upon him: If a man is left in his house and the door is closed, from where will his livelihood reach him. And he replied:

مِنْ حَيْثُ يَأْتِيهِ أَجَلُهُ.

From whatever way his death reaches him. [1]

Footnote :

[1] If Allāh considers it appropriate to keep a man living while he is confined to a closed house, then He is certainly powerful enough to provide the means of living to him, and just as a closed door cannot prevent death in the same way it cannot prevent the entry of livelihood, because the Might of Allāh, the Almighty is equally capable of either.

The meaning is that a man should be content in the matter of livelihood because whatever is destined for him will in any case reach him wherever he may be.

A Persian couplet says : Livelihood like death will reach a man even if the door be closed, but greed keeps people (unnecessarily) anxious.