

٣٧. وَقَالَ (عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ): وَقَدْ لَقِيَهُ عِنْدَ مَسِيرِهِ إِلَى الشَّامِ دَهَاقِينَ الْأَنْبَارِ فَتَرَجَّلُوا لَهُ وَاشْتَدَّ وَابِينَ يَدِيهِ، فَقَالَ: مَا هَذَا الَّذِي صَنَعْتُمُوهُ؟ فَقَالُوا: خَلَقَ مِنَّا نِعْظِمَ بِهِ أُمَرَاءَنَا. فَقَالَ (عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ) وَاللَّهِ مَا يَنْتَفِعُ بِهَذَا أُمَرَاؤُكُمْ! وَإِنَّكُمْ لِتَشْقُونَ عَلَى أَنْفُسِكُمْ فِي دُنْيَاكُمْ، وَتَشْقُونَ بِهِ فِي آخِرَتِكُمْ، وَمَا أَخْسَرَ الْمَشَقَّةَ وَرَاءَهَا الْعِقَابَ، وَأَرِيحِ الدَّعَةَ مَعَهَا الْأَمَانَ مِنَ النَّارِ.

37. Once Amīr al-mu'minīn, peace be upon him, was proceeding towards Syria when the countrymen of al-Anbār met him. Seeing him they began to walk on foot and then ran in front of him. He enquired why they were doing so and they replied that this was the way they respected their chiefs. Then he said: By Allāh, this does not benefit your chiefs. You are belabouring yourself in this world and earning misery for the next world by it. How harmful is the labour in whose wake there is punishment and how profitable is the case with which there is deliverance from the Fire (of Hell).