

٣٨. وَقَالَ (عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ) لِابْنِهِ الْحَسَنِ (عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ): يَا بُنَيَّ، احْفَظْ عَنِّي أَرْبَعًا وَأَرْبَعًا، لَا يَضُرُّكَ مَا عَمِلْتَ مَعَهُنَّ: إِنَّ أَغْنَى الْغِنَى الْعَقْلُ، وَأَكْبَرُ الْفَقْرِ الْحَمَقُ، وَأَوْحَشُ الْوَحْشَةِ الْعَجَبُ وَأَكْرَمُ الْحَسَبِ حَسَنُ الْخَلْقِ.

38. Amīr al-mu'minīn, peace be upon him, said to his son al-Hasan: O my son, learn four things and (a further) four things from me. Nothing will harm you if you practise them. That the richest of riches is intelligence; the biggest destitution is foolishness; the wildest wildness is vanity and the best achievement is goodness of the moral character.

يَا بُنَيَّ، إِذَاكَ وَمَصَادِقَةُ الْأَحْمَقِ، فَإِذَا هُ يَرِيدُ أَنْ يَنْفَعَكَ فَيَضُرُّكَ. وَإِذَاكَ وَمَصَادِقَةُ الْبَخِيلِ، فَإِذَا هُ يَقْعِدُ عَنْكَ أَجُوجٌ مَا تَكُونُ إِلَيْهِ. وَإِذَاكَ وَمَصَادِقَةُ الْفَاجِرِ، فَإِذَا هُ يَبِيعُكَ بِالتَّافِهِ وَإِذَاكَ وَمَصَادِقَةُ الْكَذَّابِ، فَإِذَا هُ كَالسَّرَابِ يَقْرُبُ عَلَيْكَ الْبَعِيدَ، وَيَبْعَدُ عَلَيْكَ الْقَرِيبَ.

O my son, you should avoid making friends with a fool because he may intend to benefit you but may harm you; you should avoid making friends with a miser because he will run away from you when you need him most; you should avoid making friends with a sinful person because he will sell you for nought; and you should avoid making friends with a liar because he is like a mirage, making you feel far things near and near things far.