

٤٧٩. وَقَالَ (عليه السلام): شَرُّ الْإِخْوَانِ مَنْ تُكَلِّفُ لَهُ.

479. Amīr al-mu'minīn, peace be upon him, said: The worst comrade is he for whom formality has to be observed. [1]

قال السيد الرضي: لأن التكليف مستلزم للمشقة، وهو شرٌّ لازمٌ عن الأخ المتكلف له، فهو شرُّ الإخوان.

as-Sayyid ar-Raḍī says: This is because formality is inseparable from hardship and it is an evil that is caused by a comrade for whom formality is observed. Consequently, he is the worst of all comrades.

Footnote :

[1] The friendship that is based on love and sincerity makes a man free from ceremonial formalities, but the friendship for which formalism is necessary is unstable and such a friend is not a true friend, because true friendship requires that a friend should not be a cause of trouble for the friend. If he is a cause of trouble he will prove tedious and harmful and this harmfulness is a sign of his being the worst friend.