

٧٦. وَقَالَ (عليه السلام): إِنَّ الْأُمُورَ إِذَا اشْتَبَهَتْ اُعْتَبِرَ آخِرُهَا بِأَوَّلِهَا.

76. Amīr al-mu'minīn, peace be upon him, said: If matters get mixed up then the last ones should be appreciated according to the previous one. [1]

Footnotes :

[1] By looking at a seed a cultivator can say what plant will come out of it, what fruits, flowers or leaves it will have and what will be its expanse. In the same way, a guess can be made about the success of a student by looking at his labour and effort or about the failure of some other student by looking at his leisureliness and idleness, because the beginning is indicative of the end and the premises of the conclusion. Therefore, if the end of any matter is not visible then its beginning should be looked at. If its beginning is bad the end too would be bad and if the beginning is good the end too would be good.

An auspicious river begins from the very spring.