

٧٨. وَمِنْ كَلَامٍ لَهُ (عليه السلام) لِلسَّائِلِ الشَّامِيِّ لَمَّا سَأَلَهُ أَمْ كَانَ مَسِيرُنَا إِلَى الشَّامِ بِقَضَاءٍ مِنَ اللَّهِ وَقَدَرٍ بَعْدَ كَلَامٍ طَوِيلٍ هَذَا
مختاره:

78. A Syrian enquired from Amīr al-mu'minīn: Was our going to fight against the Syrians destined by Allāh? Amīr al-mu'minīn, peace be upon him, gave a detailed reply, a selection from which is hereunder:

وَيَحْكُ لِعَدْلِكَ ظَنَنْتَ قَضَاءً لِأَزْمَا وَقَدَرًا حَاتِمًا لَوْ كَانَ ذَلِكَ كَذَلِكَ لِبَطْلِ الثَّوَابِ وَالْعِقَابِ وَسَقَطِ الوَعْدِ وَالوَعِيدِ. إِنَّ اللَّهَ سَيَجَانَهُ
أَمْرَ عِبَادِهِ تَخْيِيرًا وَنَهَاهُمْ تَحْذِيرًا وَكَلْفَ يَسِيرًا وَلَمْ يَكْلِفْ عَسِيرًا وَأَعْطَى عَلَى القَلِيلِ كَثِيرًا وَلَمْ يَعْصِ مَغْلُوبًا وَلَمْ يَطْعِ مَكْرَهَا وَلَمْ
يُرْسِلِ الأنْبِيَاءَ لِعِبَادِهِ وَلَمْ يَنْزِلِ الكِتَابَ لِلْعِبَادِ عَبَثًا وَلَا خَلَقَ السَّمَاوَاتِ وَالْأَرْضَ وَمَا بَيْنَهُمَا بَاطِلًا (ذَلِكَ ظَنُّ الَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا □ فَوَيْلٌ
لِلَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا مِنَ النَّارِ).

Woe to you! You take it as a final and unavoidable destiny [1] (according to which we are bound to act). If it were so, there would have been no question of reward or chastisement and there would have been no sense in Allāh's promises or warnings. (On the other hand) Allāh, the Glorified, has ordered His people to act by free will and has cautioned them and refrained them (from evil). He has placed easy obligations on them and has not put heavy obligations. He gives them much (reward) in return for little (action). He is disobeyed, not because He is overpowered. He is obeyed but not under force. He did not send prophets just for fun. He did not send down the Book for the people without purpose. He did not create the skies, the earth and all that is in between them in vain. That is the imagination of those who disbelieve; then woe to those who disbelieve - because of the fire. (Qur'ān, 38:27)

Footnotes :

[1] The end of this story is that after this the man enquired, "What kind of destiny it was by which we had to go?" and Amīr al-mu'minīn said, "qaḍā' (destiny)" means command of Allāh. For example, He has said, "wa qaḍā rabbuka allā ta'budū illā iyyāhu" (And commanded your Lord has that you shall worship not [any one] but Him [Qur'ān, 17:23]). Here "qaḍā' stands for commanded."