

ومن خطبة له (عليه السلام) في ذكر المكايل والموازن

About measures and weights, the transience of this world and the condition of its people

عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، إِنَّكُمْ - وَمَا تَأْمَلُونَ مِنْ هَذِهِ الدُّنْيَا - أَثَوِيَاءٌ مُؤْجَلُونَ، وَمَدِينُونَ مُقْتَضُونَ: أَجَلٌ مُنْقَوِصٌ، وَعَمَلٌ مُحْفُوظٌ، فَرُبَّ دَائِبٍ مُضَيِّعٍ، وَرُبَّ كَادِحٍ خَاسِرٍ. قَدْ أَصْبَحْتُمْ فِي زَمَنِ لَا يَزِيدُ الدُّنْيَا خَيْرًا فِيهِ إِلَّا إِدْبَارًا، وَالشَّرَّ إِلَّا إِقْبَالَ، وَالشَّيْطَانَ فِي هَلَاكِ النَّاسِ إِلَّا طَمَعًا، فَهَذَا أَوْانٌ قَوِيَةٌ عَدْتُهُ، وَعَمَتٌ مَكِيدَتُهُ، وَأَمَكْتُتُ فَرِيستَهُ.

O creatures of Allāh! You and whatever you desire from this world are like guests with fixed periods of stay, and like debtors called upon to pay. Life is getting short while (the records of) actions are being preserved. Many strivers are wasting (their efforts) and many of those who exert are heading towards harm. You are in a period when steps of virtue are moving backwards, steps of evil are moving forward and Satan is increasing his eagerness to ruin people. This is the time that his equipment is strong, his traps have been spread and his prey has become easy (to catch).

اضْرِبْ بِطَرْفِكَ حَيْثُ شِئْتَ مِنَ النَّاسِ، فَهَلْ تَبْصُرُ إِلَّا فَقِيرًا يَكَايِدُ فَقْرًا، أَوْ غَنِيًّا بَدَلَ نِعْمَةِ اللَّهِ كَفْرًا، أَوْ بَخِيلًا اتَّخَذَ الْبُخْلَ بَحْقَ اللَّهِ وَفِرًا، أَوْ مَتَمِرٌ دَاكُنَ بِأَذْنِهِ عَنْ سَمْعِ الْمَوَاعِظِ وَقِرًا! أَيْنَ خِيَارِكُمْ وَصَلْحَاؤِكُمْ؟! وَأَيْنَ أَحْرَارِكُمْ وَسَمِحَاؤِكُمْ؟! وَأَيْنَ الْبِتُورِ عُونَ فِي مَكَا سِيهِمْ، وَالْمِتَنَزَّهُونَ فِي مَذَاهِبِهِمْ؟! أَلَيْسَ قَدْ ظَعَنُوا جَمِيعًا عَنْ هَذِهِ الدُّنْيَا الدَّنِيَّةِ، وَالْعَاجِلَةَ الْمُنْغَصَةَ، وَهَلْ خَلَفْتُمْ إِلَّا فِي حَثَالَةٍ لَا تَلْتَقِي بِذَمِّهِمُ الشُّفْتَانَ، اسْتَصْغَارًا لِقَدْرِهِمْ، وَذَهَابًا عَنْ ذِكْرِهِمْ؟! ﴿إِنَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّا إِلَيْهِ رَاجِعُونَ﴾.

Cast your glance over people wherever you like, you will see either a poor man suffering from poverty, or a rich man ignoring Allāh despite His bounty over him, or a miser increasing his wealth by trampling on Allāh's obligations, or an unruly person closing his ears to all counsel. Where are your good people; where are your virtuous people? Where are your high spirited men and generous men? Where are those of you who avoid deceit in their business and remain pure in their behaviour? Have they not all departed from this ignoble, transitory and troublesome world? Have you not been left among people who are just like rubbish and so low that lips avoid mention of them and do not move even to condemn their low position. "Verily we are Allāh's and verily unto Him shall we return." (Qur'ān, 2:156)

﴿ظَهَرَ الْفَسَادُ﴾ فَلَا مَنَكِرَ مُغَيِّرٍ، وَلَا زَاجِرَ مَن دَجَرَ. أَفَهَذَا تُرِيدُونَ أَنْ تَجَاوِرُوا اللَّهَ فِي دَارِ قُدْسِهِ، وَتَكُونُوا أَعَزَّ أَوْلِيَاءِهِ عِنْدَهُ؟ هَيْهَاتَ! لَا يَخْدَعُ اللَّهُ عَنْ جَنَّتِهِ، وَلَا تَنَالُ مَرْضَاتِهِ إِلَّا بِطَاعَتِهِ. لعن الله الأمرين بالمعروف التاركين له، والناهين عن المنكر العاملين به!

Mischief has appeared and there is no one to oppose and change it, nor anyone to dissuade from it or desist from it. Do you, with these qualities, hope to secure abode in the purified neighbourhood of Allāh and to be regarded His staunch lovers? Alas!

Allāh cannot be deceived about His paradise and His will cannot be secured save by His obedience. Allāh may curse those who advise good but they themselves avoid it, and those who desist others from evil but they themselves act upon it.