

ومن خطبة له (عليه السلام) في الغاية من البعثة والزمان المقبل

The purpose of the deputation of the Holy Prophet and the condition of the time when people would go against the Qur'ān

فَبَعَثَ اللَّهُ مُحَمَّدًا بِالْحَقِّ لِيُخْرِجَ عِبَادَهُ مِنْ عِبَادَةِ الْأَوْثَانِ إِلَىٰ عِبَادَتِهِ، وَمِنْ طَاعَةِ الشَّيْطَانِ إِلَىٰ طَاعَتِهِ. بِقُرْآنٍ قَدْ بَيَّنَّهُ وَأَحْكَمَهُ، لِيَعْلَمَ الْعِبَادُ رَبَّهُمْ إِذْ جَهِلُوهُ، وَلِيَقْرُوا بِهِ بَعْدَ إِذْ جَحَدُوهُ، وَلِيَشْتَوْهُ بَعْدَ إِذْ أَنْكَرُوهُ. فَتَجَلَّىٰ سُبْحَانَهُ لَهُمْ فِي كِتَابِهِ مِنْ غَيْرِ أَنْ يَكُونُوا رَأَوْهُ، بِمَا أَرَاهُمْ مِنْ قُدْرَتِهِ، وَخَوْفَهُمْ مِنْ سَطْوَتِهِ، وَكَيْفَ مَحَقَّ مِنْ مَحَقِّ بِالْمَثَلَاتِ، وَاحْتَصَدَّ مِنْ احْتَصَدَّ بِالذِّقَمَاتِ!

Allāh deputed Muḥammad (S) with Truth so that he may take out His people from the worship of idols towards His worship and from obeying Satan towards obeying Him and sent him with the Qur'ān which He explained and made strong, in order that the people may know their sustainer (Allāh) since they were ignorant of Him, may acknowledge Him since they were denying Him, and accept Him since they were refusing (to believe in) Him. Because He, the Glorified, revealed Himself to them through His Book without their having seen Him, by means of what He showed them out of His might and made them fear His sway. How He destroyed those whom He wished to destroy through His chastisement and ruined those whom He wished to ruin through His retribution !

[الزمان المقبل:] وَإِنَّهُ سَيَأْتِي عَلَيْكُمْ مِنْ بَعْدِي زَمَانٌ لَيْسَ فِيهِ شَيْءٌ أَخْفَىٰ مِنَ الْحَقِّ، وَلَا أَظْهَرَ مِنَ الْبَاطِلِ، وَلَا أَكْثَرَ مِنَ الْكُذْبِ عَلَى اللَّهِ وَرَسُولِهِ، وَلَيْسَ عِنْدَ أَهْلِ ذَلِكَ الزَّمَانِ سَلْعَةٌ أُبُورٌ مِنَ الْكِتَابِ إِذَا تَلَّىٰ حَقَّ تِلَاوَتِهِ، وَلَا أَنْفَقَ مِنْهُ إِذَا حَرَفَ عَنْ مَوَاضِعِهِ، وَلَا فِي الْبِلَادِ شَيْءٌ أَنْكَرَ مِنَ الْمَعْرُوفِ، وَلَا أَعْرَفَ مِنَ الْمُنْكَرِ!

[On the future :] Certainly, a time will come upon you after me when nothing will be more concealed than rightfulness, nothing more apparent than wrongfulness— and nothing more current than untruth against Allāh and His Prophet. For the people of this period nothing will be more valueless than the Qur'ān being recited as it ought to be recited, nor anything more valuable than the Qur'ān being misplaced from its position. And in the towns nothing will be more hated than virtue, nor anything more acceptable than vice.

فَقَدْ نَبَذَ الْكِتَابَ حَمَلْتَهُ، وَتَنَاسَاهُ حَفِظْتَهُ؛ فَالْكِتَابُ يَوْمئِذٍ مَنفِيانٌ طَرِيدَانِ، وَصَاحِبَانِ مُصْطَحِبَانِ فِي طَرِيقٍ وَاحِدٍ لَا يُؤْوِيهِمَا مَوْءٍ؛ فَالْكِتَابُ وَأَهْلُهُ فِي ذَلِكَ الزَّمَانِ فِي النَّاسِ وَلَيْسَا فِيهِمْ، وَمَعَهُمْ وَلَيْسَا مَعَهُمْ! لِأَنَّ الضَّلَالَهَ لَا تَوَافِقُ الْهُدَىٰ، وَإِنْ اجْتَمَعَا، فَاجْتَمَعَ الْقَوْمُ عَلَى الْفِرْقَةِ، وَافْتَرَقُوا عَنِ الْجَمَاعَةِ، كَأَنَّهُمْ أَثْمَةٌ الْكِتَابِ وَلَيْسَ الْكِتَابُ إِمَامَهُمْ؛ فَلَمْ يَبْقَ عِنْدَهُمْ مِنْهُ إِلَّا اسْمُهُ، وَلَا يَعْرِفُونَ إِلَّا خَطَّهُ وَزَبْرَهُ، وَمِنْ قَبْلِ مَا مَثَلُوا بِالصَّالِحِينَ كُلِّ مَثَلَةٍ، وَسَمَوْا صِدْقَهُمْ عَلَى اللَّهِ فَرِيَةً، وَجَعَلُوا فِي الْحَسَنَةِ الْعَقُوبَةَ السَّيِّئَةَ.

The holders of the book will throw it away and its memorizers would forget it. In these days the Qur'ān and its people will be exiled and expelled. They will be

companions keeping together on one path, but no one will offer them asylum. Consequently at this time the Qur'ān and its people will be among the people but not among them, will be with them but not with them, because misguidance cannot accord with guidance even though they may be together. The people will have united on division and will therefore have cut away from the community, as though they were the leaders of the Qur'ān and not the Qur'ān their leader. Nothing of it will be left with them except its name, and they will know nothing save its writing and its words. Before that, they will inflict hardships on the virtuous, naming the latter's truthful views about Allāh false allegations, and enforcing for virtues the punishment of the vice.

وَإِذَا مَا هَلَكَ مِنْ كَانَ قَبْلَكُمْ بِطُولِ آمَالِهِمْ وَتَغْيِبِ آجَالِهِمْ، حَتَّى نَزَلَ بِهِمُ الْمَوْعُودُ الَّذِي تَرَدُّ عَنْهُ الْمَعْدِرَةُ، وَتُرْفَعُ عَنْهُ التَّوْبَةُ، وَتَحُلُّ مَعَهُ الْقَارِعَةُ وَالنَّقْمَةُ.

Those before you passed away because of the lengthening of their desires and the forgetting of their death, till that promised event befell them about which excuses are turned down, repentance is denied and punishment and retribution is inflicted.

[عِظَةُ النَّاسِ:] أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ، إِنَّهُ مِنْ اسْتَنْصَحَ اللَّهَ وَفَقَّ، وَمِنْ اتَّخَذَ قَوْلَهُ دَلِيلًا هَدِيًّا لِّلَّذِي هِيَ أَقْوَمُ؛ فَإِنَّ جَارَ اللَّهِ آمِنٌ، وَعَدُوُّهُ خَائِفٌ، وَإِنَّهُ لَا يَنْبَغِي لِمَنْ عَرَفَ عِظَمَةَ اللَّهِ أَنْ يَتَعَظَّمُ، فَإِنَّ رِفْعَةَ الَّذِينَ يَعْلَمُونَ مَا عِظَمَتَهُ أَنْ يَتَوَاضَعُوا لَهُ، وَسَلَامَةَ الَّذِينَ يَعْلَمُونَ مَا قَدْرَتَهُ أَنْ يَسْتَسْلِمُوا لَهُ، فَلَا تَنْفَرُوا مِنَ الْحَقِّ نِفَارَ الصَّحِيحِ مِنَ الْإِجْرَبِ، وَالْبَارِي مِنَ ذِي السَّقَمِ.

[About Ahlu'l-bayt :] O people, he who seeks counsel from Allāh secures guidance, and he who adopts His word as guide is led towards what is more straight, because Allāh's lover feels secure and His opponent feels afraid. It does not behoove one who knows His greatness to assume greatness, but the greatness of those who know His greatness is that they should know before Him, and the safety for those who know what His power is lies in submitting to Him. Do not be scared away from the truth like the scaring of the healthy from the scabbed person, or the sound person from the sick.

وَاعْلَمُوا أَنَّكُمْ لَنْ تَعْرِفُوا الرَّشِدَ حَتَّى تَعْرِفُوا الَّذِي تَرَكْتُمْ، وَلَنْ تَأْخُذُوا بِمِيثَاقِ الْكِتَابِ حَتَّى تَعْرِفُوا الَّذِي نَقَضْتُمْ، وَلَنْ تَمَسِّكُوا بِهِ حَتَّى تَعْرِفُوا الَّذِي نَبَذْتُمْ؛ فَالْتَمَسُوا ذَلِكَ مِنْ عِنْدِ أَهْلِهِ، فَإِنَّهُمْ عِيشُ الْعِلْمِ، وَمَوْتُ الْجَهْلِ، هُمْ الَّذِينَ يَخْبِرُكُمْ حُكْمَهُمْ عَنْ عِلْمِهِمْ، وَصَمْتَهُمْ عَنْ مَنْطِقِهِمْ، وَظَاهِرَهُمْ عَنْ بَاطِنِهِمْ، لَا يَخَالِفُونَ الدِّينَ وَلَا يَخْتَلِفُونَ فِيهِ، فَهُوَ بَيْنَهُمْ شَاهِدٌ صَادِقٌ، وَصَامِتٌ نَاطِقٌ.

You should know that you will never know guidance unless you know who has abandoned it, you will never abide by the pledges of the Qur'ān unless you know who has broken them, and will never cling to it unless you know who has forsaken it. Seek these things from those who own them because they are the life spring of

knowledge and death of ignorance. They are the people whose commands will disclose to you their (extent of) knowledge, their silence will disclose their (capacity of) speaking and their outer appearance will disclose their inner self. They do not go against religion, and do not differ from one another about it, while it is among them a truthful witness and a silent speaker.