

ومن كلامه (عليه السلام) قبل موته

Before his passing away (last will)

أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ، كُلُّ امْرِئٍ لَاقٍ بِمَا يَفِرُّ مِنْهُ فِي فِرَارِهِ، وَالْأَجَلَ مَسَاقُ النَّفْسِ، وَالْهَرَبُ مِنْهُ مُوَافَاتُهُ. كَمْ أَطْرَدْتُ الْإِيَّامَ أَبْحَثُهَا عَنْ مَكْنُونِ هَذَا الْأَمْرِ، فَأَبَى اللَّهُ إِلَّا إِخْفَاءَهُ، هِيَهَاتُ! عِلْمٌ مَخْزُونٌ!

O people, every one has to meet what he wishes to avoid by running away. [1]
Death is the place to which life is driving. To run away from it means to catch it.
How many days did I spent in searching for the secret of this matter, but Allāh did not allow save its concealment. Alas! It is a treasured knowledge.

أَمَّا وَصِيَّتِي: فَاللَّهُ لَا تُشْرِكُوا بِهِ شَيْئًا، وَمُحَمَّدًا فَلَا تَضِلُّوا سُنَّتَهُ، أَقِيمُوا هَذِينَ الْعُمُودَيْنِ، وَأَوْقِدُوا هَذِينَ الْمِصْبَاحَيْنِ، وَخَلَّامُ ذَمِّ مَالِكٍ تَشْرِيدُوا، حَمَلُ كُلِّ امْرِئٍ مِجْهُودُهُ، وَخَفِيفُ عَنِ الْجَهْلَةِ، رَبُّ رَحِيمٍ، وَدِينٌ قَوِيمٌ، وَإِمَامٌ عَلِيمٌ. أَنَا بِالْأَمْسِ صَاحِبِكُمْ، وَأَنَا الْيَوْمَ عِبْرَةٌ لَكُمْ، وَغَدًا مَفَارِقُكُمْ! غُفِرَ اللَّهُ لِي وَلَكُمْ!

As for my last will, it is that concerning Allāh, do not believe in a partner for Him, and concerning Muḥammad (S), do not disregard his sunnah. Keep these two pillars and burn these two lamps. Till you are not divided, no evil will come to you. [2] Every one of you has to bear his own burden. It has been kept light for the ignorant. Allāh is Merciful. Faith is straight. The leader (Prophet) is the holder of knowledge. Yesterday I was with you; today I have become the object of a lesson for you; and tomorrow I shall leave you. Allāh may forgive me and you.

إِنْ تَثَبَّتِ الْوُطْأَةُ فِي هَذِهِ الْمَزَلَّةِ فَذَاكَ، وَإِنْ تَدَحَضَ الْقَدَمُ فَإِنَّا كُنَّا فِي أَفْيَاءِ أَغْصَانٍ، وَمِهَابٍ رِيَّاحٍ، وَتَحْتَ ظِلِّ غَمَامٍ، اِضْمَحَلَّ فِي الْجَوِّ مِتْلَفُهَا، وَعَفَا فِي الْأَرْضِ مَخِطُهَا. وَإِذَا مَا كُنْتَ جَارًا جَاوِرَكُمْ بَدَنِي أَيْمَانًا، وَتَسْتَعْقِبُونَ مِنِّي جِثَّةَ خَلَاءٍ سَاكِنَةٍ بَعْدَ حَرَاكِ، وَصَامِتَةٍ بَعْدَ نَطْقٍ لِيُعْظَكُمْ هَدْوِي، وَخَفَوْتُ إِطْرَاقِي، وَسَكُونُ أَطْرَاقِي، فَإِنَّهُ أَوْعِظُ لِلْمَعْتَبِرِينَ مِنَ الْمُنْطَقِ الْبَلِغِ وَالْقَوْلِ الْمَسْمُوعِ. وَدَاعِيكُمْ وَدَاعِ امْرِئٍ مَرَّ صِدِّ لِلْإِقْلَاقِي! غَدَا تَرَوْنَ أَيَّامِي، وَيَكْشِفُ لَكُمْ عَنْ سَرَائِرِي، وَتَعْرِفُونَنِي بَعْدَ خَلْوِ مَكَانِي وَقِيَامِ غَيْرِي مَقَامِي.

If the foot remains firm in this slippery place, well and good . But if the foot slips, this is because we are under the shade of branches, the passing of the winds and the canopy of the clouds whose layers are dispersed in the sky, and whose traces disappeared [3] in the earth. I was your neighbour. My body kept you company for some days and shortly you will find just an empty body of mine which would be stationary after (all its) movement and silent after speech so that my calmness, the closing of my eyes, and the stillness of my limbs may provide you counsel, because it is more of a counsel for those who take a lesson (from it) than eloquent speech and a ready word. I am departing from you like one who is eager to meet (someone). Tomorrow you will look at my days, then my inner side will be disclosed

to you and you will understand me after the vacation of my place and its occupation by someone else.

Footnote :

[1] This means that during all the time spent in the attempts that a man makes to avoid death and in the means he adopts for it, it is only the span of life that is shortened. As the time passes the objective of death approaches near, so much so that in one's attempt to seek life one meets death.

[2] "wa khalākum dhammun" (No evil will come to you). This sentence is used as a proverb. It was first employed by Qaṣīr, slave of Jadhīmah ibn Mālik al-Abrash.

[3] The intention is that when all these things die, how can those who inhabit them remain safe? Certainly they too, like every thing else, have to pass away, some day or other. Then why should there be any wonder at my life coming to an end?