

ومن خطبه له (عليه السلام) في صفات الضالين والغافلين وفيها يعظ الناس

About negligent persons and the characteristics of beasts, carnivores and women

[صفة الضال :] وهو في مهلة من الله يهوي مع الغافلين، ويغدومع المذنبين، بلا سبيل قاصد، ولا إمام قائد.

He has been allowed time by Allāh. He is falling into error along with negligent persons and goes early in the morning with sinners, without any road to lead or any Imām to guide.

[منها في صفات الغافلين:] حتى إذا كشف لهم عن جزاء معصيتهم، واستخرجهم من جلايب غفلتهم، استقبلوا مدبراً، واستدبروا مقبلاً، فلم ينتفعوا بما أدركوا من طلبتهم، ولا بما قضاوا من وطرهم.

[A part of the same sermon :] At last when Allāh will make clear to them the reward for their sins, and take them out from the veils of their neglectfulness they will proceed to what they were running away from, and run away from what they were proceeding to. They will not benefit from the wants they will satisfy or the desires they would fulfil.

إني أحذركم، ونفسي، هذه المنزلة، فلينتفع امرؤ بنفسه، فإذا البصير من سمع فتفكر، ونظر فأبصر، وانتفع بالغير، ثم سلك جوداً واضحاً يتجنب فيه الصرعة في المهاري، والضلال في المغاوي، ولا يعين على نفسه الغواة بتعسف في حق، أو تحريف في نطق، أو تخوف من صدق.

I warn you and myself from this position. A man should derive benefit from his own self. Certainly, prudent is he who hears and ponders over it, who sees and observes and who benefits from instructive material and then treads on clear paths wherein he avoids falling into hollows and straying into pitfalls, and does not assist those who misguide him by turning away from truthfulness, changing his words, or fearing truth.

[عظة الناس:] فأفق أيها السامع من سكرتك، واستيقظ من غفلتك، واختصر من عجلتك، وأنعم الفكر فيما جاءك على لسان النبي الأمي (صلى الله عليه وآله) مما لا بد منه ولا محيص عنه، وخالف من خالف ذلك إلي غيره، ودعه وما رضي لنفسه، وضع فخرك، واحطط كبرك، واذكر قبرك، فإن عليه ممرك، وكما تدين تدان، وكما تزرع تحصد، وما قدمت اليوم تقدم عليه غداً، فامهد لقدمك، وقدم ليومك. فالحذر الحذر أيها المستمع! والجِد الجِد أيها الغافل! ﴿ولا ينبئك مثل خبير﴾.

[Exhorting the people :] O my listener! be cured from your intoxication, wake up from your slumber, decrease your hasty activity and ponder over what has come to you through the Holy Prophet, the Ummī [1] which is inevitable and inescapable. You should turn away from him who opposes him and leave him and leave

whatever he has adopted for himself. Put off your vanity, drop your haughtiness and recall your grave because your way passes over it. You will be dealt with as you deal with others, you will reap what you sow, and what you send today will meet you tomorrow. So provide for your future and send (some good acts) for your day (of reckoning). Fear, fear, O listener! Act, act, O careless! No one will warn you like him who knows.

إِنَّ مِنْ عِزَائِمِ اللَّهِ فِي الذِّكْرِ الْحَكِيمِ، الَّتِي عَلَيْهَا يَثِيبُ وَيُعَاقِبُ، وَلِهَا يَرْضَى وَيَسْخَطُ، أَنَّهُ لَا يَنْفَعُ عَبْدًا - وَإِنْ أَجْهَدَ نَفْسَهُ، وَأَخْلَصَ فِعْلَهُ - أَنْ يَخْرُجَ مِنَ الدُّنْيَا، لِأَقْبَا رَبِّهِ بِخَصْلَةٍ مِنْ هَذِهِ الْخِصَالِ لَمْ يَتَبَّ مِنْهَا: أَنْ يَشْرِكَ بِاللَّهِ فِيمَا افْتَرَضَ عَلَيْهِ مِنْ عِبَادَتِهِ، أَوْ يَشْفِي غَيْظَهُ بِهَلَاكِ نَفْسِهِ، أَوْ يَقْرَ بِأَمْرٍ فَعَلَهُ غَيْرِهِ، أَوْ يَسْتَنْجِحَ حَاجَةً إِلَى النَّاسِ بِإِظْهَارِ بَدْعَةٍ فِي دِينِهِ، أَوْ يَلْقَى النَّاسَ بِوَجْهَيْنِ، أَوْ يَمْشِي فِيهِمْ بِلِسَانَيْنِ. اعْقِلْ ذَلِكَ فَإِنَّ الْمِثْلَ دَلِيلٌ عَلَى شَبِّهِهِ.

One of the firm decisions of Allāh in the Wise Reminder (Qur'ān) upon which He bestows reward or gives punishment, and through which He likes or dislikes is that it will not benefit a man, even though he exerts himself and acts sincerely if he leaves this world to meet Allāh with one of these acts without repenting, namely that he believed in a partner with Allāh during his obligatory worship, or appeased his own anger by killing an individual, or spoke about acts committed by others, or sought fulfilment of his needs from people by introducing an innovation in his religion, or met people with a double face, or moved among them with a double tongue. Understand this because an illustration is a guide for its like.

إِنَّ الْبَهَائِمَ هَمُّهَا بَطُونُهَا، وَإِنَّ السِّبَاعَ هَمُّهَا الْعِدْوَانُ عَلَى غَيْرِهَا، وَإِنَّ النِّسَاءَ هَمُّهُنَّ زِينَةُ الْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا وَالْفُسَادُ فِيهَا؛ إِنَّ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ مُسْتَكِينُونَ، إِنَّ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ مُشْفِقُونَ، إِنَّ الْمُؤْمِنِينَ خَائِفُونَ.

Beasts are concerned with their bellies. Carnivores are concerned with assaulting others. Women are concerned with the adornments of this ignoble life and the creation of mischief herein. [2] (On the other hand) believers are humble, believers are admonishers and believers are afraid (of Allāh).

Footnote :

[1] The word “ummī” has been used in the Holy Qur'ān with reference to the Holy Prophet in chap. 7:157-158. For better understanding of the word refer to the books of commentary on the Holy Qur'ān.

[2] The intention is to say that the cause of all mischief and evil is the passion to satisfy bodily needs and the passion to subdue. If a human being is subjugated by the passion to satisfy bodily needs and considers filling the stomach as his aim

there will be no difference between him and a beast, because a beast too has no aim except to fill its belly. But if he is over-powered by the passion to subdue others and takes to killing and devastation there will be no difference between him and a carnivorous beast, because the latter's aim is also tearing and devouring. If both the passions are at work in him then he is like a woman, because in a woman both these passions act side by side and because of this she is extremely eager of adornment and is active in fanning mischief and disturbance. However, a true believer will never agree to adopt these habits as his mode of behaviour, rather he keeps his passions suppressed so that he neither allows pride and vanity to approach near him nor does he fan mischief or disturbance for fear of Allāh.

Ibn Abi'l-Ḥadid has written that Amīr al-mu'minīn delivered this sermon at the time of marching towards Baṣrah, and since the trouble of Baṣrah was the result of a woman's instigation, Amīr al-mu'minīn has, after mentioning beasts and carnivore, held a woman also to possess such qualities. Thus the battle of Baṣrah was the result of these qualities, whereby thousands of persons were involved in death and destruction.