

ومن خطبة له (عليه السلام) يحث الناس على التقوى

## Urging people towards Piety (taqwā)

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ الَّذِي جَعَلَ الْحَمْدَ مِفْتَاحًا لِذِكْرِهِ، وَسَبَبًا لِلْمَزِيدِ مِنْ فَضْلِهِ، وَدَلِيلًا عَلَى آيَاتِهِ وَعَظَمَتِهِ.

Praise be to Allāh who made praise the Key for His remembrance, a means for increase of His bounty and a guide for His Attributes and Dignity.

عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، إِنَّ الدَّهْرَ يَجْرِي بِالْبَاقِينَ كَجَرِيهِ بِالْمَاضِينَ، لَا يَعُودُ مَا قَدْ وَلَّى مِنْهُ، وَلَا يَبْقَى سَرْمَدًا مَا فِيهِ. آخِرُ فَعَالِهِ كَأَوَّلِهِ، مَتَسَابِقَةٌ أُمُورُهُ، مَتَظَاهِرَةٌ أَعْلَامُهُ. فَكَأَنَّكُمْ بِالسَّاعَةِ تَحْدُوكُمْ حُدُودَ الزَّاجِرِ بِشَوْلِهِ، فَمَنْ شَغَلَ نَفْسَهُ بِغَيْرِ نَفْسِهِ تَحْيِيرٌ فِي الظُّلُمَاتِ، وَارْتَبَاكَ فِي الْهَلَكَاتِ، وَمَدَّتْ بِهِ شَيَاطِينُهُ فِي طُغْيَانِهِ، وَزِيدَتْ لَهُ سِيئاتُ أَعْمَالِهِ، فَالْجَنَّةُ غَايَةُ السَّابِقِينَ، وَالنَّارُ غَايَةُ الْمَفْرُطِينَ.

O creatures of Allāh! Time will deal with the survivors just as it dealt with those gone by. The time that has passed will not return and whatever there is in it will not stay for ever. Its later deeds are the same as the former ones. Its trouble try to excell one another. Its banners follow each other. It is as though you are attached to the last day which is driving you as rapidly as are driven the she-camels which are dry for seven months. He who busies himself with things other than improvement of his ownself becomes perplexed in darkness and entangled in ruination. His evil spirits immerse him deep in vices and make his bad! actions appear handsome. Paradise is the end of those who are forward (in good acts) and Hell is the end of those who commit excesses.

اعْلَمُوا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، أَنَّ التَّقْوَى دَارُ حِصْنٍ عَزِيزٍ، وَالْفُجُورُ دَارُ حِصْنٍ ذَلِيلٍ، لَا يَمْنَعُ أَهْلَهُ، وَلَا يَحْرِزُ مَنْ لَجَأَ إِلَيْهِ. أَلَا وَبِالتَّقْوَى تُقَطَّعُ حَمَةُ الْخَطَايَا، وَبِالْيَقِينِ تَدْرِكُ الْغَايَةَ الْقَصْوَى.

Know O creatures of Allāh! that piety is a strong house of protection while impiety is a weak house which does not protect its people, and does not give security to him who takes refuge therein. Know that the sting of sins is cut by piety and the final aim is achieved by conviction of belief.

عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، اللَّهُ اللَّهُ فِي أَعَزِّ الْأَنْفُسِ عَلَيْكُمْ، وَأَجْبَهَا إِلَيْكُمْ؛ فَإِنَّ اللَّهَ قَدْ أَوْضَحَ سَبِيلَ الْحَقِّ وَأَنَارَ طَرَفَهُ، فَشَقِيقَةٌ لِأَزْمَةٍ، أَوْ سَعَادَةٌ دَائِمَةٌ! فَتَزُورُوا فِي أَيَّامِ الْفَنَاءِ لِأَيَّامِ الْبَقَاءِ. قَدْ دَلَلْتُمْ عَلَى الزَّادِ، وَأَمَرْتُمْ بِالظُّعْنِ، وَحَثَّيْتُمْ عَلَى الْمَسِيرِ، فَاذِمَّا أَنْتُمْ كَرَكِبَ وَقُوفٍ، لَا يَدْرُونَ مَتَى يَوْمُونَ بِالسَّيْرِ، أَلَا فَمَا يَصْنَعُ بِالْدُنْيَا مَنْ خَلِقَ لِلْآخِرَةِ! وَمَا يَصْنَعُ بِالْمَالِ مَنْ عَمَّا قَلِيلٍ يَسْلُبُهُ، وَتَبَقَى عَلَيْهِ تَبَعْتُهُ وَحِسَابُهُ!

O creatures of Allāh! (fear) Allāh, (fear) Allāh, in the matter of your ownselfs, which are the most beloved and dear to you, because Allāh has clarified to you the way of truthfulness and lighted its paths. So (you may choose) either ever-present

misfortune or eternal happiness. You should therefore provide in these mortal days for the eternal days. You have been informed of the provision, ordered to march and told to make haste in setting off. You are like staying riders who do not know when they would be ordered to march on. Beware, what will he, who has been created for the next world, do with this world? What will a person do with wealth which he would shortly be deprived of while only its ill effects and reckoning would be left behind for him?

عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، إِنَّهُ لَيْسَ لِمَا وَعَدَ اللَّهُ مِنَ الْبَخِيرِ مَتْرُكٌ، وَلَا فِيمَا نَهَى عَنْهُ مِنَ الشَّرِّ مَرْغَبٌ. عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، احذَرُوا يَوْمًا تَفْحَصُ فِيهِ الْأَعْمَالُ، وَيَكْثُرُ فِيهِ الزَّلْزَالُ، وَتَشِيبُ فِيهِ الْأَطْفَالُ.

O creatures of Allāh! the good which Allāh has promised should not be abandoned and the evil from which He has refrained should not be coveted. O creatures of Allāh!, fear the day when actions will be reckoned; there will be much quaking and even children will get old.

اعْلَمُوا، عِبَادَ اللَّهِ، أَنَّ عَلَيْكُمْ رَصِدًا مِنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ، وَعَيُونًا مِنْ جَوَارِحِكُمْ، وَحِفَاطَ صِدْقٍ يَحْفَظُونَ أَعْمَالَكُمْ، وَعَدَدَ أَنْفَاسِكُمْ، لَا تَسْتُرْكُمْ مِنْهُمْ ظِلْمَةٌ لَيْلٍ دَاجٍ، وَلَا يَكْدِكُمْ مِنْهُمْ بَابُ ذَوْرِتَاجٍ، وَإِنْ غَدَا مِنْ الْيَوْمِ قَرِيبٌ.

Know, O creatures of Allāh! that your ownself is a guard over you; your limbs are watchmen and truthful vigil-keepers who preserve (the record of) your actions and the numbers of your breaths. The gloom of the dark night cannot conceal you from them, nor can closed doors hide you from them. Surely tomorrow is close to today.

يَذْهَبُ الْيَوْمُ بِمَا فِيهِ، وَيَجِيءُ الْغَدُ لَا حَقَّابَهُ، فَكُنْ كُلَّ أَمْرٍ مِنْكُمْ قَدْ بَلَغَ مِنَ الْأَرْضِ مَنْزِلَ وَحِدَتِهِ، وَمَخْطَ حُفْرَتِهِ، فَيَالَهُ مِنْ بَيْتِ وَحِدَةٍ، وَمَنْزِلِ وَحِشَّةٍ، وَمَفْرَدِ غَرَبَةٍ! وَكَأَنَّ الصَّبِيحَةَ قَدْ أَتَتْكُمْ، وَالسَّاعَةَ قَدْ غَشِيَتْكُمْ، وَبَرَزْتُمْ لِفَصْلِ الْقَضَاءِ، قَدْ زَاجَتْ عَنْكُمْ الْإِبَاطِيلُ، وَاضْمَحَلَّتْ عَنْكُمْ الْعِلَلُ، وَاسْتَحَقَّتْ بِكُمْ الْحَقَائِقُ، وَصَدَرَتْ بِكُمْ الْأُمُورُ مَصَادِرَهَا، فَاتَّعِظُوا بِالْعِبَرِ، وَاعْتَبِرُوا بِالْغَيْرِ، وَانْتَفِعُوا بِالذَّرِّ.

Today will depart with all that it has and tomorrow will come in its wake. It is as though every one of you has reached that place on earth where he would be alone, namely the location of his grave. So, what to say of the lonely house, the solitary place of staying and the solitary exile . It is as though the cry (of the Horn) has reached you, the Hour has overtaken you and you have come out (of your graves) for the passing of judgement. (The curtains of) falsehood have been removed from you and your excuses have become weak. The truth about you has been proved. All your matters have proceeded to their consequences. Therefore, you should (now) take counsel from examples, learn lessons from vicissitudes and take advantage of the warners.

