

ومن خطبة له (عليه السلام) في الشهادة و التقوى وقيل إنه خطبها بعد مقتل عثمان في أول خلافته

Praise of Allāh, transience of this world, and causes of the decline of Allāh's blessings. (Delivered at the beginning of his caliphate after the killing of 'Uthmān)

[اللَّهُ وَرَسُولُهُ:] لَا يَشْغَلُهُ شَأْنٌ، وَلَا يَغْيِرُهُ زَمَانٌ، وَلَا يَحْوِيهِ مَكَانٌ، وَلَا يَصْفَهُ لِسَانٌ، وَلَا يَعَزِبُ عَنْهُ عَدَدُ قَطْرِ الْمَاءِ، وَلَا نَجْوَمِ السَّمَاءِ، وَلَا سَوَافِي الرِّيحِ فِي الْهَوَاءِ، وَلَا دَيْبِ النَّمْلِ عَلَى الصَّفَا، وَلَا مَقِيلِ الذَّرِّ فِي الدَّلِيلَةِ الظَّلْمَاءِ. يَعْلَمُ مَسَاقِطَ الْأَوْرَاقِ، وَخَفِي طَرْفِ الْأَحْدَاقِ.

One condition does not prevent Him from (getting into) another condition, time does not change Him, place does not locate him and the tongue does not describe Him. The number of drops of water, of stars in the sky, or of currents of winds in the air are not unknown to Him, nor the movements of ants on rocks, or the resting place of grubs in the dark night. He knows the places where leaves fall, and the secret movements of the pupils of the eyes.

وَأَشْهَدُ أَنْ لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ غَيْرٌ مُعَدُولٌ بِهِ، وَلَا مَشْكُوكٌ فِيهِ، وَلَا مَكْفُورٌ دِينُهُ، وَلَا مَجْحُودٌ تَكْوِينُهُ، شَهَادَةٌ مِنْ صِدْقِ نِيَّتِهِ، وَصَفَتْ دِخْلَتَهُ، وَخَلَصَ يَقِينُهُ، وَثَقَلَتْ مَوَازِينُهُ.

I stand witness that there is no god but Allāh, Who has no parallel, Who is not doubted, Whose religion is not denied and Whose creativeness is not questioned. My witnessing is like that of a man whose intention is free, whose conscience is clear, whose belief is pure and whose loads (of good actions) are heavy.

وَأَشْهَدُ أَنَّ مُحَمَّدًا عَبْدُهُ وَرَسُولُهُ، الْمَجْتَبِيُّ مِنْ خَلَائِقِهِ، وَالْمُعْتَمَدُ لِشَرْحِ حَقَائِقِهِ، وَالْمُخْتَصَّ بِعَقَائِلِ كَرَامَاتِهِ، وَالْمُصْطَفَى لِكِرَامَتِهِ رِسَالَاتِهِ، وَالْمَوْضُوحَةَ بِهِ أَشْرَاطُ الْهُدَى، وَالْمَجْلُوبَ بِهِ غَرِيبُ الْعَمَى.

I also stand witness that Muḥammad — the peace and blessings of Allāh be upon him and his progeny — is His slave and His Messenger, chosen from His creations, selected for detailing His realities, picked for His selected honours and chosen for His esteemed messages. Through him the signs of guidance have been lighted and the gloom of blindness (misguidance) has been dispelled.

أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ، إِنَّ الدُّنْيَا تَغْرِي الْمُؤْمِلَ لَهَا وَالْمُخْلِدَ إِلَيْهَا، وَلَا تَنْفَسُ مِنْ نَافَسِ فِيهَا، وَتَغْلِبُ مِنْ غَلْبِ عَلَيْهَا. وَإِيمَ اللَّهِ، مَا كَانَ قَوْمٌ قَطُّ فِي غَضٍّ نِعْمَةً مِنْ عَيْشٍ فَزَالَ عَنْهُمْ إِلَّا بِذُنُوبٍ اجْتَرَحُوهَا، لَ «أَنَّ اللَّهَ لَيْسَ بِظَالِمٍ لِلْعَبِيدِ» وَلَوْ أَنَّ النَّاسَ حِينَ تَنْزِلَ بِهِمُ النَّقْمُ، وَتَنْزُولُ عَنْهُمْ النَّعْمُ، فَزَعَوْا إِلَى رَبِّهِمْ بِصِدْقٍ مِنْ نِيَّاتِهِمْ، وَوَلَهُ مِنْ قُلُوبِهِمْ، لَرُدَّ عَلَيْهِمْ كُلُّ شَارِدٍ، وَأُصْلِحَ لَهُمْ كُلُّ فَاسِدٍ.

O people, surely this world deceives him who longs for it and who is attracted towards it. It does not behave niggardly with him who aspires for it and overpowers

him who overpowers it. By Allāh, no people are deprived of the lively pleasures of life after enjoying them, excepts as a result of sins committed by them, because certainly Allāh is not unjust to His creatures. Even then, when calamities descend upon people and pleasures depart from them, they turn towards Allāh with true intention and the feeling in their hearts that He will return them everything that has fled from them and cure all their ills.

وَإِنِّي لِأَخْشِي عَلَيْكُمْ أَنْ تَكُونُوا فِي فِتْرَةٍ، وَقَدْ كَانَتْ أُمُورٌ مَضَتْ، مَلْتَمٌ فِيهَا مَيْلَةٌ، كُنْتُمْ فِيهَا عِنْدِي غَيْرَ مَحْمُودِينَ، وَلَئِنْ رُدَّ عَلَيْكُمْ أَمْرُكُمْ إِنْكُمْ لَسَعْدَاءٌ، وَمَا عَلَيَّ إِلَّا الْجَهْدُ، وَلَوْ أَشَاءَ أَنْ أَقُولَ لَقُلْتُ: عَفَا اللَّهُ عَمَّا سَلَفَ!

I fear about you lest you fall into ignorance (that prevailed before the appearance of the Prophet). In the past there were certain matters in which you were deflected, and in my view you were not worthy of admiration; but if your previous position could be returned to you then you would become virtuous. I can only strive; but if I were to speak I would (only) say may Allāh forgive your past actions.