

ومن كلام له (عليه السلام) في وصف بيعته بالخلافة
قال الشريف: وقد تقدم مثله بألفاظ مختلفة

About allegiance to Amīr al-mu'minīn for the Caliphate

(A similar sermon in somewhat different version has already appeared earlier)

وَبَسَطْتُمْ يَدِي فَكَفَفْتُمَهَا، وَمَدَدْتُمُوهَا فَقَبَضْتُمَهَا، ثُمَّ تَدَاكُكْتُمْ عَلَيَّ تَدَاكُكُ الْإِبِلِ الْهَيْمِ عَلَى حِيَاضِهَا يَوْمَ وَرْدِهَا، حَتَّى انْقَطَعَتِ النَّجَلُ،
وَسَقَطَ الرِّدَاءُ، وَوُطِئَ الضَّعِيفُ، وَبَلَغَ مِنْ سُرُورِ النَّاسِ بَبِيعَتِهِمْ إِذْ بَايَ أَنْ ابْتَهَجَ بِهَا الصَّغِيرُ، وَهَدَجَ إِلَيْهَا الْكَبِيرُ، وَتَحَامَلَ نَحْوَهَا
الْعَلِيلُ، وَحَسَرَتْ إِلَيْهَا الْكِعَابُ.

You drew out my hand towards you for allegiance but I held it back and you stretched it but I contracted it. Then you crowded over me as the thirsty camels crowd on the watering cisterns on their being taken there, so much so that shoes were torn, shoulder-cloths fell away and the weak got trampled, and the happiness of people on their allegiance to me was so manifested that small children felt joyful, the old staggered (up to me) for it, the sick too reached for it helter skelter and young girls ran for it without veils.