

ومن كلام له (عليه السلام) بعد أن أقدم أحدهم على الكلام فحصر وهو في فضل أهل البيت وو صف فساد الزمان

On Ja'dah ibn Hubayrah al-Makhzūmī's [1] inability to deliver a sermon.

أَلَا إِنَّ اللِّسَانَ بَضْعَةٌ مِنَ الْإِنْسَانِ، فَلَا يَسْعِدُهُ الْقَوْلُ إِذَا امْتَنَعَ، وَلَا يَمَهِّلُهُ النُّطْقُ إِذَا اتَّسَعَ، وَإِذَا لَامَرَأَ الْكَلَامَ، وَفِينَا تَشَبَّهَتْ عُرُوقُهُ، وَعَلَيْنَا تَهْدَلُتْ غُصُونُهُ.

Know that the tongue is a part of a man's body. If the man desists, speech will not co-operate with him and when he dilates, speech will not give him time to stop. Certainly, we are the masters of speaking. Its veins are fixed in us and its branches are hanging over us.

[فساد الزمان:] وَاَعْلَمُوا رَحِمَكُمُ اللَّهُ أَنْكُمْ فِي زَمَانِ الْقَائِلِ فِيهِ بِالْحَقِّ قَلِيلٌ، وَاللِّسَانُ عَنِ الصِّدْقِ كَلِيلٌ، وَاللَّامِزُ لِلْحَقِّ ذَلِيلٌ، أَهْلُهُ مَعْتَكِفُونَ عَلَى الْعَصْبِيَانِ، مُصْطَلِحُونَ عَلَى الْإِدْهَانِ، فَتَاهُمْ عَارِمٌ، وَشَائِبُهُمْ أَثْمَعَالِمُهُمْ مَنَافِقٌ، وَقَارِئُهُمْ مَمَازِقٌ، لَا يَعْظَمُ صَغِيرَهُمْ كَبِيرَهُمْ، وَلَا يَعُولُ غَنِيَّهُمْ فَقِيرَهُمْ.

Know that - may Allāh have mercy on you - you are living at a time when those who speak about right are few, when tongues are loath to utter the truth and those who stick to the right are humiliated. The people of this time are engaged in disobedience. Their youth are wicked, their old men are sinful, their learned men are hypocrites, and their speakers are sycophants. Their young ones do not respect their elders, and their rich men do not support the destitute.

Footnote :

[1] Once Amīr al-mu'minīn asked his nephew (sister's son) Ja'dah ibn Hubayrah al-Makhzūmī to deliver a sermon, but when he rose for speaking his tongue faltered and he could utter nothing, whereupon Amīr al-mu'minīn ascended the pulpit to speak and delivered a long sermon out of which a few sentences have been recorded here by as-Sayyid ar-Raḍī.