

ومن خطبة له (عليه السلام) في شأن الحكمين وذم أهل الشام

About the two arbitrators (Abū Mūsā al-Ash‘arī and ‘Amr ibn al-‘Āṣ) and disparagement of the people of Syria (ash-Shām)

جُفَاةٌ طَغَامٌ، عَيْبِدُ أَقْرَامٍ، جَمَعُوا مِنْ كُلِّ أَوْبٍ، وَتَلَقَطُوا مِنْ كُلِّ شَوْبٍ، مِمَّنْ يَنْبَغِي أَنْ يُفَقَّهُ وَيُؤَدِّبَ، وَيَعْلَمَ وَيُدْرِبَ، وَيُوَلِّي عَلَيْهِ، وَيؤْخِذُ عَلَى يَدَيْهِ، لَيْسُوا مِنَ الْمُهَاجِرِينَ وَالْأَنْصَارِ، وَلَا مِنَ الَّذِينَ تَبَوَّأُوا الدَّارَ وَالْإِيمَانَ.

Rude, low people and mean slaves. They have been collected from all sides and picked up from every pack. They need to be taught the tenets (of Islam), disciplined, instructed, trained, supervised and led by the hand. They are neither muhājirūn (immigrants from Mecca), nor anṣār (helpers of Medina) nor those who made their dwellings in the abode (in Medina) and in belief.

أَلَا وَإِنَّ الْقَوْمَ اخْتَارُوا لِنَفْسِهِمْ أَقْرَبَ الْقَوْمِ مِمَّا تُحِبُّونَ، وَاخْتَرْتُمْ لِنَفْسِكُمْ أَقْرَبَ الْقَوْمِ مِمَّا تَكْرَهُونَ، وَإِنَّمَا عَاهَدْتُمْ بِعَدْلِ اللَّهِ بْنِ قَيْسٍ بِالْإِمْسِ يَقُولُ: إِنَّهَا فِتْنَةٌ فَقَطَّعُوا أوتَارَكُمْ وَشَيَّبُوا سِيُوفَكُمْ، فَإِنْ كَانَ صَادِقًا فَقَدْ أَخْطَأَ بِمَسِيرِهِ غَيْرَ مُسْتَكْرَهٍ، وَإِنْ كَانَ كَاذِبًا فَقَدْ لَزِمْتَهُ التَّهْمَةُ. فَادْفَعُوا فِي صَدْرِ عَمْرٍو بْنِ الْعَاصِ بِعَدْلِ اللَّهِ بْنِ الْعَبَّاسِ، وَخُذُوا مَهْلَ الْإِيمَانِ، وَحُوطُوا قَوَاصِي الْإِسْلَامِ، أَلَا تَرَوْنَ إِلَى بِلَادِكُمْ تَغْزَى، وَإِلَى صِفَاتِكُمْ تَرْمِي؟

Look! They have chosen for themselves one who is nearest of all of them to what they desire, while you have chosen one who is nearest to what you dislike. You may certainly recall that the other day ‘Abdullāh ibn Qays (Abū Mūsā) was saying: “It is a mischief, therefore, cut away your bow-string and sheathe your swords.” If he was right (in what he said) then he was wrong in marching (with us) without being forced, but if he was lying then he should be viewed with suspicion. Therefore, send ‘Abdullāh ibn al-‘Abbās to face ‘Amr ibn al-‘Āṣ. Make use of these days and surround the borders of Islam. Do you not see that your cities are being attacked and your prowess is being aimed at?