

ومن خطبة له (عليه السلام) في استنفار الناس إلى الشام [بعد فراغه من أمر الخوارج] [وفيها يتأفف بالناس، وينصح لهم بطريق السداد:]

To prepare the people for fighting with the people of Syria (ash-Shām) [1] Amīr al-mu'minīn said :

أَفِ لَكُمْ! لَقَدْ سَمَّيْتُ عَتَابَكُمْ! أَرْضَيْتُمْ بِالْحَيَاةِ الدُّنْيَا مِنَ الْآخِرَةِ عَوْضًا؟ وَبِالذُّلِّ مِنَ الْعِزِّ خَلْفًا؟ إِذَا دَعَوْتُكُمْ إِلَى جِهَادِ عَدُوِّكُمْ دَارَتْ أَعْيُنُكُمْ، كَأَنَّكُمْ مِنَ الْمَوْتِ فِي غَمْرَةٍ وَمِنَ الذُّهُولِ فِي سَكْرَةٍ، يَرْتَجُّ عَلَيْكُمْ حَوَارِي فَتَعْمَهُونَ فَكَأَنَّ قُلُوبَكُمْ مَالُوسَةٌ فَأَنْتُمْ لَا تَعْقِلُونَ. مَا أَنْتُمْ لِي بِثِقَةٍ سَجِيسٍ اللَّيَالِي وَمَا أَنْتُمْ بِرُكْنٍ يَمَالُ بِكُمْ وَلَا زَوَافِرَ عِزٍّ يَفْتَقِرُ إِلَيْكُمْ. مَا أَنْتُمْ إِلَّا كَابِلٌ ضَلَّ رِعَاتَهَا، فَكَلَّمَا جَمَعْتَ مِنْ جَانِبٍ انْتَشَرَتْ مِنْ آخَرٍ،

Woe to you. I am tired of rebuking you. Do you accept this worldly life in place of the next life? Or disgrace in place of dignity? When I invite you to fight your enemy your eyes revolve as though you are in the clutches of death, and in the senselessness of last moments. My pleadings are not understood by you and you remain stunned. It is as though your hearts are affected with madness so that you do not understand. You have lost my confidence for good. Neither are you a support for me to lean upon, nor a means to honour and victory. Your example is that of the camels whose protector has disappeared, so that if they are collected from one side they disperse away from the other side.

لَيْسَ - لَعَمْرُ اللَّهِ - سِعْرَ نَارِ الْحَرْبِ أَنْتُمْ! تَكَا دُونَ وَلَا تَكِيدُونَ، وَتَبْقِصُ أَطْرَافَكُمْ فَلَا تَمْتَعِضُونَ لَا يَنَامُ عَنْكُمْ وَأَنْتُمْ فِي غَفْلَةٍ سَاهُونَ، غَلِبَ وَاللَّهِ الْمُتَخَاذِلُونَ! وَأَيُّمَ اللَّهِ إِنْ لَظُنَّ بِكُمْ أَنْ لَوْ حَمَسَ الْوُغْلِي، وَاسْتَحَرَّ الْمَوْتَ قَدْ انْفَرَجْتُمْ عَنْ ابْنِ أَبِي طَالِبٍ انْفِرَاجَ الرَّأْسِ

By Allāh, how bad are you for igniting flames of war. You are intrigued against but do not intrigue (against the enemy). Your boundaries are decreasing but you do not get enraged over it. Those against you do not sleep but you are unmindful. By Allāh, those who leave matters one for the other are subdued. By Allāh, I believed about you that if battle rages and death hovers around you, you will cut away from son of Abī Ṭālib like the severing of head from the trunk. [2]

وَاللَّهِ إِنْ أَمْرًا يُمْكِنُ عَلَيْهِ مِنْ نَفْسِهِ يَغْرِقُ لَحْمَهُ وَيَهْشِمُ عَظْمَهُ، وَيَفْرِقِي جِلْدَهُ، لِعَظِيمِ عَجْزِهِ، ضَعِيفِ مَاضِيَتِهِ عَلَيْهِ جَوَانِحُ صَدْرِهِ أَنْتَ فَكُنْ ذَاكَ إِنْ شِئْتَ، فَأَمَّا أَنَا فَوَاللَّهِ دُونَ أَنْ أُعْطِيَ ذَلِكَ ضَرْبَ بِالْمَشْرِفَةِ تَطِيرُ مِنْهُ فَرَّاشُ الْهَامِ وَتَطِيحُ السَّوَادُ وَالْأَقْدَامُ، وَيَفْعَلُ اللَّهُ بَعْدَ ذَلِكَ مَا يَشَاءُ.

By Allāh, he who makes it possible for his adversary to so overpower him as to remove the flesh (from his bones), crush his bones and cut his skin into pieces, then it means that his helplessness is great and his heart surrounded within the

sides of his chest is weak. You may become like this if you wish. But for me, before I allow it I shall use my sharp edged swords of al-Mashrafiyyah which would cut as under the bones of the head and fly away arms and feet. Thereafter, Allāh will do whatever He wills.

أَيُّهَا النَّاسُ! إِنَّ لِي عَلَيْكُمْ حَقًّا، وَلَكُمْ عَلَيَّ حَقٌّ: فَأَمَّا حَقُّكُمْ عَلَيَّ: فَالْزُصِيحَةُ لَكُمْ، وَتَوْفِيرُ فَيْئِكُمْ عَلَيَّكُمْ، وَتَعْلِيمُكُمْ كَيْلًا تَجْهَلُوا، وَتَأْدِيبُكُمْ كَيْمًا تَعْلَمُوا. وَأَمَّا حَقِّي عَلَيْكُمْ: فَالْوَفَاءُ بِالْبَيْعَةِ، وَالزُّصِيحَةُ فِي الْمَشْهَدِ وَالْمَغِيبِ، وَالْإِجَابَةُ حِينَ أَدْعُوكُمْ، وَالطَّاعَةُ حِينَ أَمُرُكُمْ.

O people, I have a right over you and you have a right over me. As for your right over me, that is to counsel you, to pay you your dues fully, to teach you that you may not remain ignorant and instruct you in behaviourism that you may act upon. As for my right over you, it is fulfilment of (the obligation of) allegiance, well-wishing in presence or in absence, response when I call you and obedience when I order you.

Footnote :

[1] present-day Syria, Lebanon and Palestine. Its capital was Damascus. Wherever the word Syria is mentioned (in this book) it should be understood in its larger meaning.

[2] This sentence is employed for such severance after which there is no occasion or possibility of joining. The author of Durrah Najafiyyah has quoted several views in its explanation:

(i) Ibn Durayd's view is that it means that, "Just as when the head is severed its joining again is impossible in the same way as you will not join me after once deserting me."

(ii) al-Mufaddal says ar-ra's (head) was the name of a man, and a village of Syria, Bayt ar-ra's is named after him. This man left his home and went away somewhere and never again returned to his village after which the proverb sprang up "you went as ar-ra's had gone."

(iii) One meaning of it is that "Just as if the joints of the bones of the head are opened they cannot be restored, in the same way as you will not join me after cutting from me."

(iv) It has also been said that this sentence is in the sense of separating completely.

After copying this meaning from the Sharh of ash-Shaykh Qutbu'd-Dīn ar-Rāwandī, the commentator Ibn Abi'l-Ḥadīd has written that this meaning is not correct because when the word "ar-ra's" is used in the sense of whole it is not preceded by "alif" and "lam".

(v) It is also taken to mean that "You will so run away from me as one (fleeing for life) to save his head." Besides this, one or two other meanings have also been stated but being remote they are disregarded.

First of all it was used by the philosopher of Arabia Aktham ibn Sufayfi while teaching unity and concord to his children. He says: O my children do not cut away (from each other) at the time of calamities like the cutting of head, because after that you will never get together.