

وَمِنْ كَلَامٍ لَهُ عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ

From one of his statements

فِي الْخَوَارِجِ لَمَّا سَمِعَ قَوْلَهُمْ: «لَا حُكْمَ إِلَّا لِلَّهِ» قَالَ عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ:

When Amīr al-Mu'minīn heard the cry of Khārijites that "Verdict is only that of Allāh," He said (a.s.):

كَلِمَةٌ حَقٌّ يَرَادُ بِهَا بَاطِلٌ! نَعَمْ إِنَّهُ لَا حُكْمَ إِلَّا لِلَّهِ، وَلَكِنْ هُوَ لَا يَقُولُونَ: لَا إِمْرَةَ إِلَّا لِلَّهِ وَإِنَّهُ [فِي بَعْضِ النِّسْخِ: لَا إِمْرَةَ، فَإِنَّهُ لَا بَدَّ لِلنَّاسِ مِنْ أَمِيرٍ بَرٍّ أَوْ فَاجِرٍ، يَعْمَلُ فِي إِمْرَتِهِ الْبِرَّ مِنَ، وَيَسْتَمْتَعُ فِيهَا بِالْكَافِرِ، وَيَبْلُغُ اللَّهُ فِيهَا الْأَجَلَ، وَيَجْلَمَعُ بِهِ الْبَغِيَّةَ، وَيُقَاتِلُ بِهِ الْبَعْدُو، وَتَأْتِي مِنْهُ السُّبُلُ، وَيُؤْخَذُ بِهِ لِلضَّعِيفِ مِنَ الْقَوِيِّ، حَتَّى يَسْتَتْرِيحَ بَرٌّ، وَيَسْتَتْرَاحَ مِنْ فَاجِرٍ.

The sentence is right, but what (they think) it means, is wrong. It is true that verdict lies but with Allāh, but these people say that (the function of) governance is only for Allāh. The fact is that there is no escape for men from a ruler, good or bad. The faithful person perform (good) acts in his rule, while the unfaithful enjoys (worldly) benefits in it. During the rule, Allāh would carry everything to end. Through the ruler, tax is collected, enemy is fought, roadways are protected, and the right of the weak is taken from the strong, till the virtuous enjoys peace and allowed protection from (the oppression of) the wicked.

وَفِي رِوَايَةٍ أُخْرَى أَنَّهُ عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ لَمَّا سَمِعَ تَحَكِيمَهُمْ قَالَ: حُكْمَ اللَّهِ أَنْ تَنْظُرُ فِيكُمْ. وَقَالَ:

Another version: When Amīr al-Mu'minīn heard the cry of the Khārijites on the said verdict he said: I am expecting the verdict (destiny) of Allāh on you. Then he continued:

أَمَّا الْإِمْرَةُ الْبَابِرَةُ فَيَعْمَلُ فِيهَا التَّقِي، وَأَمَّا الْإِمْرَةُ الْبَاجِرَةُ فَيَسْتَمْتَعُ فِيهَا الشَّقِيُّ، إِلَى أَنْ تَنْقَطِعَ مَدَّتُهُ، وَتُدْرِكُهُ مَنِيَّتُهُ.

As for good government, the pious man performs good acts in it; while in a bad government, the wicked person enjoys till his time is over and death overtakes him.