

ومن كلام له (عليه السلام) وقد أشار عليه أصحابه بالاستعداد لحرب أهل الشام بعد إرساله جرير بن عبدالله البجلي إلى معاوية

After Amīr al-mu'minīn had sent Jarīr ibn 'Abdillāh al-Bajalī to Mu'āwiyah (for securing his allegiance) some of his companions suggested preparation to fight with him then he said :

إِنَّ اسْتِعْدَادِي لِحَرْبِ أَهْلِ الشَّامِ وَجَرِيرٍ عِنْدَهُمْ، إِغْلَاقٌ لِلشَّامِ، وَصِرْفٌ لِأَهْلِهِ عَنْ خَيْرٍ إِنْ أَرَادُوهُ، وَلَكِنْ قَدْ وَقَّتْ لِحَرِيرٍ وَقْتًا لَا يَقِيمُ بَعْدَهُ إِلَّا مَخْدُوعًا أَوْ عَاصِيًا، وَالرَّأْيُ مَعَ الْإِنَانَةِ، فَأَرُودُوا، وَلَا أَكْرَهَ لَكُمْ الْإِعْدَادَ.

My preparation for war with the people of Syria (ash-Sham) while Jarīr ibn 'Abdillāh al-Bajalī is still there would be closing the door for Syria and prevention of its people from good action (i.e. allegiance) if they intend doing it. However, I have fixed a time limit for Jarīr after which he would not stay without either deception or in disobedience. My opinion is in favour of patience, so wait a while. (In the meantime) I do not dislike your getting ready.

وَلَقَدْ ضَرَبْتُ أَنْفَ هَذَا الْأَمْرِ وَعَيْنَهُ، وَقَلَبْتُ ظَهْرَهُ وَبِطْنَهُ، فَلَمْ أَرَلِي إِلَّا الْقِتَالَ أَوْ الْكُفْرَ بِمَا جَاءَ مُحَمَّدٌ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ. إِنَّهُ قَدْ كَانَ عَلَى الْأُمَّةِ وَالْأَحْدَثِ أَحْدَاثًا، وَأَوْجَدَ النَّاسَ مَقَالًا، فَقَالُوا، ثُمَّ نَقَمُوا فَعَيَّرُوا.

I have observed this matter thoroughly from all sides but I do find any way except war or heresy. Certainly, there was over the people a ruler (before me) who brought about new (unIslamic) things and compelled the people to speak out. So they did speak, then rose up and thereafter changed the whole system.