

ومن كلام له (عليه السلام)

From one of his statements

لَمَّا أَشِيرَ عَلَيْهِ بِالْأَيْتِيعِ طَلْحَةَ وَالزُّبَيْرَ وَلَا يُرْصَدَ لِهَمَّا الْقِتَالَ

Delivered on being advised not to chase Ṭalḥah ibn ‘Ubaydillah and az-Zubayr ibn al-‘Awwām for fighting. [1]

[وفيه يبين عن صفته بأنه (عليه السلام) لا يخدع]

وَاللَّهِ لَا أَكُونُ كَالضَّبُعِ: تَنَامُ عَلَى طُولِ الدِّمِّ، حَتَّى يَصِلَ إِلَيْهَا طَالِبُهَا، وَيَخْتَلِهَا رَا صِدْهَا، وَلَكِنِّي أَضْرِبُ بِالْمُقْبِلِ إِلَى الْحَقِّ الْمُدْبِرِ عَنْهُ، وَبِالسَّمْعِ الْمَطِيعِ الْعَاصِي الْمُرِيبِ أَبَدًا، حَتَّى يَأْتِيَ عَلَيَّ يَوْمِي.

By Allāh I shall not be like the hyena, which feigns sleep on continuous (sound of) stone-throwing till he who is in search of it find it or he who is on the look out for it overpowers it. Rather, I shall ever strike the deviators from truth with the help of those who advance towards it, and the sinners and doubters with the help of those who listen to me and obey, till my day (of death) comes.

فَوَاللَّهِ مَا زِلْتُ مُدْفُوعًا عَنْ حَقِّي، مُسْتَأْتِرًا عَلَيَّ، مِنْذُ قَبْضِ اللَّهِ تَعَالَى نَبِيِّهِ (صلى الله عليه وآله) حَتَّى يَوْمِ النَّاسِ هَذَا.

By Allāh I have been continually deprived of my right from the day the Prophet died till today.

Footnote:

[1] When Amīr al-mu’minīn showed intention to pursue Ṭalḥah and az-Zubayr, he was advised to leave them on their own, lest he received some harm from them. Amīr al-mu’minīn uttered these words in reply, the sum total whereof is: “How long can I be a mere spectator to my right being snatched and keep quiet? Now, so long as I have breath of life, I shall fight them and make them suffer the consequences of their conduct. They should not think that I can be easily overpowered like the hyena.”

“Ḍabu” means a hyena. Its kunyahs are “Umm ‘Āmir” and “Umm Ṭarīq”. And it is also called “Ḥaḍājir”. “Ḥaḍājir” is the plural of “Ḥaḍjar”, meaning “glutton”; but when used in the plural form it refers to the hyena, because it swallows everything

and devours whatever it finds, as if several bellies were contained in one, and they do not have their fill. "Na'thal". It is a very simple-minded and foolish animal. Thus, when it is intended to show the extreme foolishness of someone, it is said: "So-and-so is more foolish than a hyena." Its foolishness is apparent from the way it is easily caught. It is said that the hunter surrounds its den, then taps the ground with his foot or a stick, and calls out softly: "Bow your head Umm Ṭarīq, conceal yourself Umm 'Āmir." On repeating this sentence and tapping the ground, it conceals itself in a corner of the den. Then the hunter says: "Umm 'Āmir is not in her den; Umm 'Āmir must be asleep somewhere." On hearing this it stretches its limbs and feigns sleep. The hunter then puts the knot in its feet and drags it out, and it falls like a coward into his hand without resistance.