

ومن كلام له (عليه السلام) في ذم أصحابه

Admonishing his companions about careless behaviour Amīr al-mu'minīn said :

كَمْ أَدَارِيكُمْ كَمَا تَدَارِي الْبِكَارِ الْعَمْدَةَ وَالْثِيَابِ الْمَتَدَاعِيَةَ! كَلِّمَا حَيْصَتَا مِنْ جَانِبٍ تَهْتَكْتِ مِنْ آخِرٍ. كَلِّمَا أَطَلَّ عَلَيْكُمْ مَنْسِرٌ مِنْ مَنَاسِرِ أَهْلِ الشَّامِ أَغْلَقَ كُلَّ رَجُلٍ مِنْكُمْ بَابَهُ، وَانْجَحَرَانِجِحَارِ الضَّبَّةِ فِي جَحْرِهَا، وَالضَّبْعِ فِي وَجَارِهَا.

How long shall I accord you consideration that is accorded to camels with hollow hump, or to worn clothes which when stitched on one side give way on the other. Whenever a vanguard force of Syria (ash-Shām) hovers over you, everyone of you shuts his door and hides himself like the lizard in its hole or a badger in its den.

الذَّلِيلُ وَاللَّهُ مِنْ نَصْرَتِهِمْ! وَمَنْ رَمَى بِكُمْ فَقَدْ رَمَى بِأَفْوَقِ نَاصِلٍ. إِنَّكُمْ - وَاللَّهِ - لَكَثِيرٌ فِي الْبَاحَاتِ قَلِيلٌ تَحْتَ الرِّايَاتِ، وَإِذِي لِعَالَمٍ بِمَا يَصْلِحُكُمْ، وَيُقِيمُ أَوْ دِكْمٍ وَلِكِنِّي وَاللَّهِ لَا أَرَى إِصْلَاحَكُمْ بِإِفْسَادِ نَفْسِي. أَضْرَعُ اللَّهُ خُدُودَكُمْ وَأَتْعَسُ جُدُودَكُمْ لَا تَعْرِفُونَ الْحَقَّ كَمَعْرِفَتِكُمُ الْبَاطِلِ، وَلَا تَبْطَلُونَ الْبَاطِلَ كِبِطَالِكُمُ الْحَقِّ!

By Allāh, he whom people like you support must suffer disgrace and he who throws arrows with your support is as if he throws arrows that are broken both at head and tail. By Allāh, within the courtyard you are quite numerous but under the Banner you are only a few. Certainly, I know what can improve you and how your crookedness can be straightened. But I shall not improve your condition by marring myself. Allāh may disgrace your faces and destroy you. You do not understand the right as you understand the wrong and do not crush the wrong as you crush the right.