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Characteristics related to the Number Three

Three characteristics, each of which would cause one to be under the Shade of God's Throne

ثلاث خصال من كن فيه أو واحدة منهن كان في ظل عرش الله عز و جل {يوم القيامة} يوم لا ظل الا ظله: رجل أعطى الناس ما سائلهم لها و رجل لم يقدم رجلا و لم يؤخر اخرى حتى يعلم أن ذلك لله فيه رضى أو سخط و رجل لم يعب أخاه المسلم بعيب حتى ينفى ذلك العيب من نفسه فانه لا ينفى منها عيبا إلا بدا له عيب و كفى بالمرء شغلا بنفسه عن الناس

There are three qualities having each of which would cause one to be under the Shade of God, the Honourable and Exalted, (on the Resurrection day) on the day in which there is no shade but God's Shade.

The first characteristic is to grant people what you expect of them. The second characteristic is to only do what pleases God, and not do what would provoke God's Wrath. The third characteristic is not to express the faults of one's Muslim brothers in their absence, unless one first removes such faults from himself. It is better to attend to the improvement of one's own faults than to seek out other people's faults. 1

Whoever possesses three characteristics has perfect faith

ثلاث خصال من كن فيه استكمل خصال الايمان: الذى إذا رضى لم يدخله رضاه فى إثم و لا باطل و إذا غضب لم يخرجه الغضب من الحق وإذا قدر لم يتعاط ما ليس له

There are three characteristic which if possessed would perfect one's faith. When one is pleased, his pleasure does not lead him into sin and wrongful deeds; when one is angered, his anger does not lead

him away from what is right; and when one is in power, his power does not lead him to acquire what does not rightfully belong to him. 2

Having three characteristics is enough for one to be bad

إن أسرع الخير ثوابا البر و إن أسرع الشر عقابا البغى و كفى بالمرء عيبا أن ينظر من الناس إلى ما يعمى عنه من . نفسه و يعبر الناس بما لا يستطيع تركه و يؤذى جليسه بما لا يعنيه

Indeed the reward of doing good to others will arrive much faster than any good deeds, the punishment for doing wrong to others will arrive much faster than any evil deeds. Having three characteristics is enough for one to be considered imperfect: paying attention to other people's faults while ignoring your own; admonishing others against evil deeds without being able to abandon them yourself and hurting your companion for nothing.3

Three characteristics without which you are not from God or the Prophet

ثلاث لم تكن فيه فليس منى و لا من الله عز و جل" قيل: "يا رسول الله و ما هن؟" قال: "حلم يرد به جهل الجاهل" ... و حسن خلق يعيش به في الناس و ورع يحجزه عن معاصى الله عز وجل

God's Prophet (S) said: "There are three characteristics which if not possessed then one is neither from me nor from God, the Honourable and Exalted." The Prophet (S) was asked: "O Prophet of God! What are they?"

The Prophet (S) replied: "Patience by which you forgive the ignorance of those who are ignorant, being good-tempered with people and piety which restrains you from rebelling against God, the Honourable and Exalted." 4

Three things to respect and safeguard for God's sake

إن الله حرمات ثلاث من حفظهن حفظ الله له أمر دينه و دنياه و من لم يحفظهن لم يحفظ الله له شيئا: حرمة عترتى .

There are three things to respect so that God will protect your faith and your worldly affairs. And if you disrespect them, God will not protect anything for you. These three things to respect are Islam, me and my '*Itrat* (household).5

Reality of one's faith can be proved by having three characteristics

قال أبى جعفر عليه السلام: "بينا رسول الله صلى الله عليه و آله ذات يوم فى بعض أسفاره إذ لقيه ركب فقالوا: الرضا السلام عليك يا رسول الله فالتفت إليهم فقال: ما أنتم؟ قالوا: مؤمنون، قال: فما حقيقة ايمانكم؟ قالوا: الرضا بقضاء الله و التسليم لامر الله و التفويض إلى الله، فقال رسول الله صلى الله عليه و آله: علماء حكماء كادوا أن يكونوا من الحكمة أنبياء، فان كنتم صادقين فلا تبنوا ما لا تسكنون و لا تجمعوا ما لا تاكلون واتقوا الله الذى إليه "ترجعون

Abu Ja'far Al-Baqir said: "God's Apostle (S) encountered a group of riders during one of his journeys. They greeted him and he asked them who they were. They said they were believers. The Apostle (S) asked them about the proof of the reality of their faith.

They replied 'Contentment with what God has destined, entrusting ourselves to God, and submitting to God's orders.' Then God's Apostle (S) said, 'These are wise and knowledgeable people with such a high rank, near that of the Prophets.' Then he faced them and said, 'If you are truthful, do not build what you shall not reside in, do not collect what you shall not eat and fear God to whom you shall return.'" 6

Faith consists of three things

Faith consists of whole-hearted acceptance, verbal expression and acting accordingly.7

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- 1. P. 148, No 3.
- 2. P. 188, No 66.
- 3. P. 196, No 81.
- 4. P. 253, No 172.
- 5. Ibid. No 173.

- 6. P. 255, No 175.
- 7. P. 299, No 239.
- 8. P. 305, No 250.

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