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# Conjecture

الظَنُّ Conjecture

# **Conjecture and Reason**

الظَّنُّ وَالعقلُ

1– Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'A man's conjecture is proportionate to the extent of his reason.' [Ghurar al-Hikam, no. 6038]

2- Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'An intellectual man's conjecture is sounder than an ignorant man's certainty.'[Ghurar al-Hikam, no. 6040]

3– Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'Be wary of the opinions given by believers, for verily Allah has made the truth flow from their tongues.' [Nahjul Balaghah, Saying 309]

# Look for the Best in Any Situation Involving a Fellow Brother

4– The Prophet (S) said, 'Make an excuse for your fellow brother, and even if you do not have an excuse [for his behaviour], then seek out an excuse for him.' [Bihar al-Anwar, v. 75, p. 197, no. 15]

5– Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'See the best in any situation involving a fellow brother, until you experience something from him which proves you wrong, and do not assume the worst about something that your brother may say if you can find the possibility for good therein.'[Amali al–Saduq, p. 250, no. 8]

#### The Virtue in Entertaining Good Opinions

6- Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'Entertaining good opinions is a comfort to the heart and [indicates] soundness of faith.'[Ghurar al-Hikam, no. 4816]

7– Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'Entertaining good opinions reduces anxiety, and saves one from being taken over by sin.' [Ghurar al–Hikam, no. 4823]

8– Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'The one who thinks the best of people gains their love.' [Ghurar al-Hikam, no. 8842]

9- Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'The best of piety is to think the best of people.' [Ghurar al-Hikam, no. 3027]

# **Caution against Entertaining Low or Suspicious Opinions**

10– The Prophet (S) said, 'Beware of suspicion for verily suspicion is the worst of all lies.' [Bihar al-Anwar, v. 75, p. 195, no. 8]

11– The Prophet (S) said, 'If you have assumed the worst [about someone or something], then do not seek to make it true. And if you are jealous [of someone or something] then do not covet them, and if you draw an evil omen from something, ignore it and walk away.'[Kanz al-'Ummal, no. 7585]

12– Imam Ali (a.s.) wrote in his letter to al-Ashtar when he appointed him governor of Egypt, 'Verily miserliness, cowardice and greed are all evil impulses brought together by entertaining a low opinion of Allah.'[Nahjul Balaghah, Letter 53]

13- Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'There is no room for faith with suspicion.' [Ghurar al-Hikam, no. 10534]

14- Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'Suspicion corrupts matters and gives rise to evils.' [Ghurar al-Hikam, no. 5575]

15- Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'Beware of entertaining suspicious thoughts for verily suspicion corrupts worship.'[Ghurar al-Hikam, no. 2709]

16– Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'The evil person cannot think well of anybody because he can only see people as he himself is predisposed.' [Ghurar al-Hikam, no. 1903]

# **Avoiding That Which Incites Suspicious Thoughts**

17- Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'He who stands in a suspect place cannot blame anyone for thinking suspiciously of him.'[Amali al-Saduq, p. 250, no. 8]

18– Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'The one who enters bad places naturally stands to be accused, and the one who exposes himself to accusation cannot blame anyone for thinking suspiciously of him.' [Kanz al-Fawa'id, v. 2, p. 182]

19- Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'Sitting in the company of bad people engenders suspicious thoughts about good people.'[Bihar al-Anwar, v. 74, p. 197, no. 31]

20- Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'The person in the worst state is the one who does not trust anybody because of his suspiciousness, and who is not trusted by anybody because of his evil actions.' [Kanz al-Fawa'id, v. 2, p. 182]

21– Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'The one who does not think well of people feels alienated from everybody.' [Ghurar al-Hikam, no. 9084]

# **Instances When Suspicion is Allowed**

22- The Prophet (S) said, 'Guard yourselves against people with suspicion.' [Bihar al-Anwar, v. 77, p. 158, no. 142]

23– Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'At a time when good prevails over an era and among its people, if a man suspects another person who has never been seen committing an offence, then he has indeed wronged him. And when corruption prevails over an era and among its people, if a man assumes the best about somebody, then he has indeed jeopardised himself.'[Nahjul Balaghah, Saying 114]

24– Imam al-Kazim (a.s.) said, 'At a time when injustice is more prevalent than good, it is not permitted for anyone to entertain good opinions about another unless he knows him to be such.'[al-Kafi, v. 5, p. 298, no. 2]

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