

Making Excuses

الإعتذارُ Making Excuses

Caution against Doing Something That One Would Later Have to Excuse Oneself For

التَّحذِيرُ مِمَّا يُعْتَذَرُ مِنْهُ

.. رسولُ اللهِ (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ): إِيَّاكَ وَمَا تَعْتَذَرُ مِنْهُ ؛ فَإِنَّ فِيهِ الشِّرْكََ الْخَفِيَّ¹

1— It is narrated in *Misbah al-Shari'aa* (Lantern of the Path) that the Prophet (S) said, 'Keep away from doing that which you must excuse yourself for, for verily that involves hidden polytheism.' [*Misbah al-Shari'aa*, p. 403]

- الإمامُ الحُسينُ (عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ): إِيَّاكَ وَمَا تَعْتَذَرُ مِنْهُ ؛ فَإِنَّ الْمُؤْمِنَ لَا يُسِيءُ وَلَا يُعْتَذِرُ ، وَالْمُنَافِقَ كُلَّ يَوْمٍ يُسِيءُ² وَيُعْتَذِرُ .

2— Imam al-Husayn (a.s.) said, 'Keep away from doing that which you must excuse yourself for, for verily the believer neither commits a wrong nor makes excuses for himself, whereas the hypocrite commits wrongs and makes excuses for them everyday.' [*Tuhaf al-Uqul*, no. 248]

- مُفَضَّلُ بْنُ عُمَرَ: قَالَ أَبُو عَبْدِ اللَّهِ (عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ): لَا يَنْبَغِي لِلْمُؤْمِنِ أَنْ يُذِلَّ نَفْسَهُ ، قُلْتُ: بِمَا يُذِلُّ نَفْسَهُ ؟ قَالَ: يَدْخُلُ³ فِيمَا يُعْتَذَرُ مِنْهُ .

3— Imam al-Sadiq (a.s.) said, 'A believer must never humiliate himself.' When asked how he would

humiliate himself, he replied, ‘By embarking upon something which he later has to make excuses for.’[Mishkat al–Anwar, no. 50]

Enjoinment of Accepting the Excuse of One Who Excuses

Himself

الْحَثُّ عَلَى قَبُولِ عُدْرٍ مِّنْ اَعْتَدَرَ

.. رسولُ الله (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ): مَنْ لَمْ يَقْبَلِ الْمَعْدِرَةَ مِنْ مُّحِقٍّ أَوْ مُبْطِلٍ، لَمْ يَرِدْ عَلَيَّ الْحَوْضَ

4– The Prophet (S) said, ‘He who does not accept an apology, be it from an honest man or a liar, will not be with me at the Heavenly Pool [in Paradise].’[Kanz al–’Ummal, no. 7032]

.. الإمامُ عليٌّ (عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ): اِقْبَلْ عُدْرَ أَخِيكَ، وَإِنْ لَمْ يَكُنْ لَهُ عُدْرٌ فَالْتَمِسْ لَهُ عُدْرًا

5– Imam Ali (a.s.) said, ‘Accept your fellow brother’s excuse, and if he has no excuse then find an excuse for him.’[Bihar al–Anwar, v. 74, p. 165, no. 29]

.. الإمامُ عليٌّ (عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ): اَعْقَلُ النَّاسِ اَعْدَرُهُمْ لِلنَّاسِ

6– Imam Ali (a.s.) said, ‘The most understanding person is he who accepts people’s excuses most readily.’[Ghurar al–Hikam, no. 2988]

.. الإمامُ زين العابدين (عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ): إِنْ شَتَمَكَ رَجُلٌ عَنْ يَمِينِكَ ثُمَّ تَحَوَّلَ إِلَى يَسَارِكَ وَاعْتَدَرَ إِلَيْكَ فَاقْبَلْ عُدْرَهُ

7– Imam Zayn al–Abidin (a.s.) said, ‘If someone insults you on your right hand side, then moves over to your left and apologises to you, accept his apology.’[Bihar al–Anwar, v. 78, p. 141, no. 34]