

Praise And Extolment

Praise and extolment-المدح والتثناء

1. Be on your guard against excessive flattery and praise for indeed these two have a foul odour in the heart.

.. احترسوا من سورة الإطراء والمدح، فإن لهما ريحاً خبيثَةً في القلبِ1

2. Beware of praising anyone for something that is not in him, for indeed his action affirms his attribute and belies you.

.. إياك أن تُثني على أحد بما ليس فيه، فإن فعله يصدق عن وصفه ويكذبك2

3. The ugliest truth is a person's praise for himself.

.. أقبح الصدق ثناء الرجل على نفسه3

4. Verily the person who praises you is surely a deceiver of your intellect, [and] a cheater who cheats you about yourself with false compliments and spurious praise; so if you deprive him of your grant or withhold from him your favour, he will label you with every scandal and will attribute every ugly act to you.

- إن ما دحك لخادع لعقلك غاش لك في نفسك بكاذب الإطراء وزور الثناء، فإن حرمتَه نوالك أو منعتَه إفضالك،4
وسمك بكل فضيحة، ونسبك إلى كل قبيحة.

5. Commendation causes vainglory and brings one closer to heedlessness.

.. الْإِطْرَاءُ يُحْدِثُ الزَّهْوَ وَيُدْنِي مِنَ الْغُرَّةِ5

6. When you praise, be brief.

.. إِذَا مَدَحْتَ فَاخْتَصِرْ6

7. When one of the pious believers is extolled [for his virtues], he fears what is said about him, so he says: I know myself better than others, and my Lord knows me better than myself. O Allah! Do not hold me accountable for what they say and make me better than what they think of me.

- إِذَا زُكِّيَ أَحَدٌ مِنَ الْمُتَّقِينَ، خَافَ مِمَّا يُقَالُ لَهُ فَيَقُولُ: أَنَا أَعْلَمُ بِنَفْسِي مِنْ غَيْرِي، وَرَبِّي أَعْلَمُ بِنَفْسِي مِنِّي، اللَّهُمَّ لَا تُؤَاخِذْنِي بِمَا يَقُولُونَ، وَاجْعَلْنِي أَفْضَلَ مِمَّا يَظُنُّونَ.

8. Recommendation of the evil ones is one of the greatest sins.

.. تَزْكِيَةُ الْأَشْرَارِ مِنْ أَعْظَمِ الْأَوْزَارِ8

9. Love for compliments and praise is from the surest opportunities of Satan.

.. حُبُّ الْإِطْرَاءِ وَالْمَدْحِ مِنْ أَوْثَقِ فُرُصِ الشَّيْطَانِ9

10. The best praise is that which flows from the tongues of the righteous.

.. خَيْرُ الثَّنَاءِ مَا جَرَى عَلَى أَلْسِنَةِ الْأَبْرَارِ10

11. The worst praise is that which flows from the tongues of the wicked.

.. شَرُّ الثَّنَاءِ مَا جَرَى عَلَى أَلْسِنَةِ الْأَشْرَارِ11

12. Seeking praise without deserving it is foolishness.

.. طَلَبُ الثَّنَاءِ بِغَيْرِ اسْتِحْقَاقٍ خُرْقٌ12

13. How many a person is thrilled by the praise showered upon him.

.. كَمْ مِنْ مَفْتُونٍ بِالتَّنَاءِ عَلَيْهِ13

14. Excessive praise is flattery; it causes vainglory and brings one closer to heedlessness.

.. كَثْرَةُ التَّنَاءِ مَلَقٌ يُحْدِثُ الزَّهْوَ وَيُدْنِي مِنَ الْغَرَةِ14

15. Every praiser has the right to a good reward or a handsome gift from whom he praises.

.. لِكُلِّ مُنِّنٍ عَلَى مَنْ أَثْنَى عَلَيْهِ مَثُوبَةٌ مِنْ جَزَاءِ أَوْعَارِفَةٍ مِنْ عَطَاءٍ15

16. One who praises you has [actually] slaughtered you.

.. مَنْ مَدَحَكَ فَقَدْ ذَبَحَكَ16

17. One who praises you for what is not in you is indeed likely to blame you for that which you have not done.

.. مَنْ مَدَحَكَ بِمَا لَيْسَ فِيكَ فَهُوَ خَلِيقٌ أَنْ يَذُمَّكَ بِمَا لَيْسَ فِيكَ17

18. One who is praised for that which is not in him is ridiculed by it.

.. مَنْ أُثْنِيَ عَلَيْهِ بِمَا لَيْسَ فِيهِ سُخْرٍ بِهِ18

19. Whoever praises you for that which is not in you, then it is actually a criticism of you if you think about it.

.. مَنْ مَدَحَكَ بِمَا لَيْسَ فِيكَ فَهُوَ دَمٌّ لَكَ إِنْ عَقَلْتَ19

20. One of the ugliest blameworthy acts [of a person] is praising the wicked.

.. مِنْ أَقْبَحِ الْمَذَامِ مَدْحُ اللَّئَامِ20

21. The one who praises a person for that which is not in him is mocking him.

.. مَادِحُ الرَّجُلِ بِمَا لَيْسَ فِيهِ مُسْتَهْزِيٌّ بِهِ 21

22. The one who praises you for that which is not in you is [actually] mocking you, and if you do not give him that which fulfils his wants, he will be excessive in his blame and defamation of you.

.. مَادِحُكَ بِمَا لَيْسَ فِيكَ مُسْتَهْزِيٌّ بِكَ، فَإِنْ لَمْ تُسَعِفْهُ بِنَوَالِكَ بَالِغَ فِي ذَمِّكَ وَهَجَائِكَ 22

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