

Pretension in traditions:

1. In his book *Al-Kafi*, according to *isnad* to Yazid ibn Khalafah, the author cites the narrator saying that Abū Abdullāh, peace be with him, said to him, "Every form of pretension is *shirk*. One who works for the sake of pleasing people is to be rewarded by them, and one who works for Allāh will be rewarded by Allāh."

2. In his book *Al-ʿImāli*, al-Sadīq says that the Messenger of Allāh (ص) was once asked, "What will bring us salvation in the life to come?" He (ص) said, "Salvation then will be in not attempting to deceive Allāh so He lets you be deceived, for anyone who tries to deceive Allāh will himself be deceived. Conviction will be extracted out of him, and he actually deceives none but his own self."

He was asked, "How can anyone try to deceive Allāh?!" The Prophet (ص) said, "He acts upon what Allāh has enjoined, then by the same action he tries to impress others. So, fear Allāh and avoid pretension, for it is *shirk* against Allāh. A pretender will be called upon the Day of Judgment with four names: O *Kāfir* (apostate)! O *Fajir* (debauchee)! O *Ghādir* (deceiver)! O *Khāsir* (loser)! Your deeds are void, your reward is cancelled, and there is nothing good for you this Day; so, seek your rewards from those for whom you used to work!"

3. In *Wasʿil al-Shāh* by al-Hurr al-ʿAmīlī, quoting *Qurb al-Isnad*, through *isnad* traced to the Commander of the Faithful (ع), the Messenger of Allāh (ص) has said, "One who makes himself look good by doing what Allāh loves then in secrecy defies Allāh by doing what Allāh hates will find Allāh angry with him in the Hereafter, holding him in contempt."

This sacred tradition will later be explained, so wait. There are many such traditions, and what we have stated must suffice and serve the memory.

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