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Scrutiny (of Man's Actions)

المُراقَبَةُ (of Man's Actions) Scrutiny

Man's Actions are Scrutinized by Allah, the Angels and his Own Limbs

مُراقَبَةُ اللَّهِ وَالْمَلَائِكَةِ وَالْجَوَارِحِ

- الإمامُ عَلِيُّ (عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ): اَعْلَمُوا عِبَادَ اللَّهِ أَنَّ عَلَيْكُمْ رَصَدًا مِنْ أَنْفُسِكُمْ، وَعُيُونًا مِنْ جَوَارِحِكُمْ، وَحِفَاطَ صِدْقٍ¹ يَحْفَظُونَ أَعْمَالَكُمْ، وَعَدَدَ أَنْفَاسِكُمْ، لَا تَسْتُرُكُمْ مِنْهُمْ ظُلْمَةُ لَيْلٍ دَاجٍ، وَلَا يُكِنُّكُمْ مِنْهُمْ بَابٌ ذُو رِتَاجٍ

1— Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'Know O servants of Allah that your own selves monitor you, and your limbs are a watchful eye over you. The truthful guardian angels record your deeds as well as the number of your breaths. Neither can the dark gloomy night conceal you from view, nor can you hide behind a bolted door.' [Nahjul Balaghah, Sermon 157]

Enjoinment of Self-Scrutiny

الْحَثُّ عَلَى مُراقَبَةِ النَّفْسِ

- رَسُولُ اللَّهِ (صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَآلِهِ): كَانَ فِيهَا [أَيُّ صُحُفِ إِبْرَاهِيمَ (عَلَيْهِ السَّلَامُ)]... عَلَى الْعَاقِلِ مَا لَمْ يَكُنْ مَغْلُوبًا² عَلَى عَقْلِهِ أَنْ يَكُونَ لَهُ سَاعَاتٌ: سَاعَةٌ يُنَاجِي فِيهَا رَبَّهُ عَزَّوَجَلَّ، وَسَاعَةٌ يُحَاسِبُ نَفْسَهُ، وَسَاعَةٌ يَتَفَكَّرُ فِيهَا صَنَعَ اللَّهِ عَزَّوَجَلَّ إِلَيْهِ، وَسَاعَةٌ يَخْلُو فِيهَا بِحِظِّ نَفْسِهِ مِنَ الْحَالِلِ؛ فَإِنَّ هَذِهِ السَّاعَةَ عَوْنٌ لَتِلْكَ السَّاعَاتِ وَاسْتِجْمَامٌ لِلْقُلُوبِ وَتَوَزُّيعٌ لَهَا.

2— The Prophet (S) said, 'The scriptures of Prophet Abraham (a.s.) contain the following: '...the rational man, as long as he is of sound reason, must put aside several hours during the day – an hour for conversing with his Lord, an hour for [self-scrutiny and] accounting for himself, an hour to ponder over Allah's favors bestowed upon him, and an hour to spend on his own lawful pleasures, for this one hour will be an aid to him in fulfilling his other hours, as well as a time to recuperate and relax.'[al-Khisal, p. 525, no. 13 and Ma'ani al-Akhbar, p. 334]

.. الإمامُ عليٌّ (عليه السَّلامُ): اجْعَلْ مِنْ نَفْسِكَ عَلَى نَفْسِكَ رَقِيباً، واجْعَلْ لآخِرَتِكَ مِنْ دُنْيَاكَ نَصِيباً³

3— Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'Appoint your own self as a scrutinizer over yourself, and use this world to reserve your share in the Hereafter.'[Ghurar al-Hikam, no. 2429]

.. الإمامُ عليٌّ (عليه السَّلامُ): يَنْبَغِي أَنْ يَكُونَ الرَّجُلُ مُهَيِّمناً عَلَى نَفْسِهِ ، مُرَاقِباً قَلْبَهُ حَافِظاً لِسَانَهُ⁴

4— Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'Man must control and survey his own self, scrutinize his heart, and guard his tongue.'[Ghurar al-Hikam, no. 10947]

- الإمامُ عليٌّ (عليه السَّلامُ): رَحِمَ اللَّهُ أَمْرًا (عَبْدًا) سَمِعَ حُكْمًا فَوَعَى ، وَدُعِيَ إِلَى رِشَادٍ فَدَنَا ، وَأَخَذَ بِحُجْرَةِ هَادٍ⁵ .
فَنَجَا ، رَاقِبَ رِيَّهُ ، وَخَافَ ذَنْبَهُ .

5— Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'Allah has mercy on the servant who scrutinizes his sins carefully and fears his Lord.'[Ghurar al-Hikam, no. 5205]

- الإمامُ عليٌّ (عليه السَّلامُ): عَلَى الْعَاقِلِ أَنْ يُحْصِيَ عَلَى نَفْسِهِ مَسَاوِيَهَا فِي الدِّينِ وَالرَّأْيِ وَالْأَخْلَاقِ وَالْأَدَبِ ، فَيَجْمَعَ⁶ .
ذَلِكَ فِي صَدْرِهِ أَوْ فِي كِتَابٍ وَيَعْمَلُ فِي إِزَالَتِهَا .

6— Imam Ali (a.s.) said, 'The rational man must calculate his soul's misdeeds against religion, reason, ethical virtues and good moral conduct. He must gather this information within himself or write it down in a book and work at eradicating them.'[Bihar al-Anwar, v. 78, p. 6, no. 58]

- الإمامُ الصَّادِقُ (عليه السَّلامُ): كَانَ فِيمَا وَعَظَ اللَّهُ تَبَارَكَ وَتَعَالَى بِهِ عِيسَى بْنُ مَرْيَمَ (عليه السَّلامُ) أَنْ قَالَ لَهُ: 7...
. يَا عِيسَى ، كُنْ حَيْثُمَا كُنْتَ مُرَاقِباً لِي .

7— Imam al-Sadiq (a.s.) said, 'Among the advices that Allah, Blessed and most High, gave to Jesus son of Mary (a.s.) was, 'O Jesus, wherever you may be, scrutinize yourself on My behalf.'[Bihar al-Anwar, v. 14, pp. 289 and 293, no. 14]

- الإمام الصادق (عليه السلام): مَنْ اعتَدَلَ يَوْمَاهُ فَهُوَ مَغْبُونٌ ، وَمَنْ كَانَ فِي غَدِهِ شَرًّا مِنْ يَوْمِهِ فَهُوَ مَفْتُونٌ ، وَمَنْ 8
لَمْ يَنْقُضِ النُّقْصَانَ فِي نَفْسِهِ دَامَ نَقْصُهُ ، وَمَنْ دَامَ نَقْصُهُ فَالْمَوْتُ خَيْرٌ لَهُ .

8— Imam al-Sadiq (a.s.) said, 'The man for whom each day passes exactly the same as another [where there is no change in his character or his deeds] is indeed a loser. And the man for whom the next day is always worse than the previous day is indeed cursed. And the man who never sees to improve himself day after day is indeed at a loss, and whoever passes his days in such loss, death is surely better for him than life.'[Bihar al-Anwar, v. 78, p. 277, no. 113]

Self-Scrutiny and Self-Accountability

المُرَاقَبَةُ وَالْمُحَاسَبَةُ

- الإمام الكاظم (عليه السلام): لَيْسَ مِنَّا مَنْ لَمْ يُحَاسِبْ نَفْسَهُ فِي كُلِّ يَوْمٍ ، فَإِنْ عَمِلَ حَسَنًا اسْتَزَادَ اللَّهُ ، وَإِنْ عَمِلَ 9
سَيِّئًا اسْتَغْفَرَ اللَّهُ مِنْهُ وَتَابَ إِلَيْهِ .

9— Imam al-Kazim (a.s.) said, 'The one who does not take account of himself every single day is not one of us. And when he performs a good deed, he should ask Allah to enable him to do more, and when he commits an evil deed, he must seek Allah's forgiveness and repent for it.'[al-Kafi, v. 2, p. 453, no. 2]

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