

Sermon 167: Allah, the Glorified, has sent down a guiding Book....

At the beginning of his Caliphate. About Fulfilment of rights and obligations, and advice to fear Allah in all matters.

(ومن خطبة له (عليه السلام

في أول خلافته

Allah, the Glorified, has sent down a guiding Book wherein He has explained virtue and vice. You should adopt the course of virtue whereby you will have guidance, and keep aloof from the direction of vice so that you remain on the right way. (Mind) the obligations, (mind) the obligations! Fulfil them for Allah and they will take you to Paradise. Surely, Allah has made unlawful the things which are not unknown and made lawful the things which are without defect.

He has declared paying regard to Muslims as the highest of all regards. He has placed the rights of Muslims in the same grade (of importance) as devotion (to Himself and His Oneness). Therefore, a Muslim is one from whose tongue and hand every (other) Muslim is safe, save in the matter of truth. It is not, therefore, lawful to molest a Muslim except when it is obligatory.

إِنَّ اللَّهَ سُبْحَانَهُ أَنْزَلَ كِتَاباً هَادِياً بَيَّنَ فِيهِ الْخَيْرَ وَالشَّرَّ: فَخُذُوا نَهْجَ الْخَيْرِ تَهْتَدُوا، وَاصْدُقُوا عَنْ سَمْتِ الشَّرِّ تَقْصِدُوا

الْفَرَائِضَ الْفَرَائِضَ! أَدْوَهَا إِلَى اللَّهِ تُؤَدِّكُمْ إِلَى الْجَنَّةِ. إِنَّ اللَّهَ تَعَالَى حَرَّمَ حَرَاماً غَيْرَ مَجْهُولٍ، وَأَحَلَّ حَلَالاً غَيْرَ مَدْخُولٍ، وَفَضَّلَ حُرْمَةَ الْمُسْلِمِ عَلَى الْحُرْمِ كُلِّهَا، وَشَدَّ بِالْأَخْلَاصِ وَالتَّوْحِيدِ حُقُوقَ الْمُسْلِمِينَ فِي مَعَاقِدِهَا، فَالْمُسْلِمُ مَنْ سَلِمَ الْمُسْلِمُونَ مِنْ لِسَانِهِ وَيَدِهِ إِلَّا بِالْحَقِّ، وَلَا يَحِلُّ أَدَى الْمُسْلِمِ إِلَّا بِمَا يَجِبُ.

Hasten towards the most common matter which is peculiar to every one; and that is death. Certainly, people (who have already gone) are ahead of you while the hour (Day of Judgement) is driving you from behind. Remain light, in order that you may overtake them. Your backs are being awaited for the sake of the fronts. Fear Allah in the matter of His creatures and His cities because you will be questioned even about lands and beasts. Obey Allah and do not disobey Him. When you see virtue adopt it, and when you see vice avoid it.

بَادِرُوا أَمْرَ الْعَامَّةِ وَخَاصَّةَ أَحَدِكُمْ وَهُوَ الْمَوْتُ، فَإِنَّ النَّاسَ أَمَامَكُمْ، وَإِنَّ السَّاعَةَ تَحْدُوكُمْ مِنْ خَلْفِكُمْ، تَخَفُّوْا تَلْحَقُوا، فَإِنَّمَا يُنْتَظَرُ بِأَوَّلِكُمْ آخِرُكُمْ. اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ فِي عِبَادِهِ وَبِلَادِهِ، فَإِنَّكُمْ مَسْئُولُونَ حَتَّى عَنِ الْبِقَاعِ وَالْبَهَائِمِ، أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَلَا تَعْصُوهُ، وَإِذَا رَأَيْتُمُ الْخَيْرَ فَخُذُوا بِهِ، وَإِذَا رَأَيْتُمُ الشَّرَّ فَأَعْرِضُوا عَنْهُ

Alternative Sources for Sermon 167

(1) Al-Tabari, *Ta'rikh*, V, 157, events of 35 H.;

(2) al-Radi, *al-Khasa'is*, 87.

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