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Sermon 222: The addressee (in this verse) is devoid of argument

Amir al-mu'minin recited the verse:

O thou man! What hath beguiled thee from thy Lord, the Most Gracious One. (Qur'an, 82:6)

Then he said:

(ومن كلام له (عليه السلام

قاله عند تلاوته

(يَا أَيُّهَا الْإِنْسَانُ مَا غَرَّكَ بِرَبِّكَ الْكَرِيمِ)

The addressee (in this verse) is devoid of argument and his excuse is most deceptive. He is detaining himself in ignorance.

. أَدْحَضُ مَسْئُولٌ حُجَّةً، وَأَقْطَعُ مُغْتَرٍّ مَعْذِرَةً، لَقَدْ أَبْرَحَ جَهَالَةً بِنَفْسِهِ

O man! What has emboldened you to (commit) sins, what has deceived you about your Allah and what has made you satisfied with the destruction of yourself? Is there no cure for your ailment or no awakening from your sleep? Do you not have pity on yourself as you have on others? Generally, when you see anyone exposed to the heat of the sun you cover him with shade, or if you see anyone afflicted with grief that pains his body you weep out of pity for him.

What has then made you patient over your own disease, what has made you firm in your own afflictions, and what has consoled you from weeping over yourself although your life is the most precious of all lives to you, and why does not the fear of an ailment that may befall you in the night keep you wakeful although you lie on the way to Allah's wrath due to your sins?

يَا أَيُّهَا الْإِنْسَانُ، مَا جَرَأَكَ عَلَى ذَنْبِكَ، وَمَا غَرَكَ بِرَبِّكَ، وَمَا آتَسَكَ بِهَلَكَةِ نَفْسِكَ؟ أَمَّا مِنْ دَائِكَ بُلُولٌ، أَمْ لَيْسَ مِنْ نَوْمَتِكَ يَقْظَةٌ؟ أَمَّا تَرْحَمُ مِنْ نَفْسِكَ مَا تَرْحَمُ مِنْ غَيْرِكَ؟ فَلَرُبَّمَا تَرَى الضَّاحِيَ مِنْ حَرِّ الشَّمْسِ فَتُظِلُّهُ، أَوْ تَرَى الْمُبْتَلى بِأَلَمٍ يُمِضُ جَسَدَهُ فَتُبْكِي رَحْمَةً لَهُ! فَمَا صَبَرَكَ عَلَى دَائِكَ، وَجَلَدَكَ عَلَى مُصَابِكَ، وَعَزَاكَ عَنِ الْبُكَاءِ عَلَى نَفْسِكَ وَهِيَ أَعَزُّ! الْإِنْفُسِ عَلَيْكَ! وَكَيْفَ لَا يُوقِظُكَ خَوْفُ بَيَاتِ نِقْمَةٍ، وَقَدْ تَوَرَّطْتَ بِمَعَاصِيهِ مَدَارِجَ سَطَوَاتِهِ

You should cure the disease of languor in your heart by determination, and the sleep of neglectfulness in your eyes by wakefulness. Be obedient to Allah, and love His remembrance, and picture to yourself that you are running away while He is approaching you. He is calling you to His forgiveness and concealing your faults with His kindness, while you are fleeing away from Him towards others.

Certainly, Great is Allah the powerful, Who is so generous, and how humble and weak are you and still so bold to commit His disobedience although you live in His protection and undergo changes of life in the expanse of His kindness. He does not refuse you His kindness and does not remove His protection from you. In fact, you have not been without His kindness even for a moment, whether it be a favour that He conferred upon you or a sin of yours that He has concealed or a calamity that He has warded off from you.

What is your idea about Him if you had obeyed Him? By Allah, if this had been the case with two persons equal in power and matching in might (one being inattentive and the other showering favours upon you) then you would have been the first to adjudge yourself to be of bad behaviour and evil deeds.

فَتَدَاوَى مِنْ دَاءِ الْفِتْرَةِ فِي قَلْبِكَ بِعَزِيمَةٍ، وَمِنْ كَرَى الْغَفْلَةِ فِي نَاطِرِكَ بِبِقْظَةٍ، وَكُنْ لِلَّهِ مُطِيعاً، وَذِكْرِهِ آنِساً، وَتَمَثَّلْ فِي حَالِ تَوَلَّيْكَ عَنْهُ إِقْبَالَهُ عَلَيْكَ، يَدْعُوكَ إِلَى عَفْوِهِ، وَيَتَغَمَّدُكَ بِفَضْلِهِ، وَأَنْتَ مُتَوَلٍّ عَنْهُ إِلَى غَيْرِهِ.

فَتَعَالَى مِنْ قَوِيٍّ مَا أَكْرَمَهُ! وَتَوَاضَعْتَ مِنْ ضَعِيفٍ مَا أَجْرَأَكَ عَلَى مَعْصِيَتِهِ! وَأَنْتَ فِي كَنْفِ سِتْرِهِ مُقِيمٌ، وَفِي سَعَةِ فَضْلِهِ مَتَقَلِّبٌ، فَلَمْ يَمْنَعْكَ فَضْلُهُ، وَلَمْ يَهْتِكْ عَنْكَ سِتْرَهُ، بَلْ لَمْ تَخُلْ مِنْ لُطْفِهِ مَطْرَفَ عَيْنٍ فِي نِعْمَةٍ يُحْدِثُهَا لَكَ، أَوْ سَيِّئَةٍ يَسْتُرُهَا عَلَيْكَ، أَوْ بَلِيَّةٍ يَصْرِفُهَا عَنْكَ، فَمَا ظَنُّكَ بِهِ لَوْ أَطْعَمْتَهُ! وَإِنَّمِ اللَّهُ لَوْ أَنَّ هَذِهِ الصِّفَةَ كَانَتْ فِي مُتَفَقِّينَ فِي الْقُوَّةِ، مُتَوَازِينَ فِي الْقَدْرِ، لَكُنْتَ أَوَّلَ حَاكِمٍ عَلَى نَفْسِكَ بِذَمِيمِ الْأَخْلَاقِ، وَمَسَاوِيءِ الْأَعْمَالِ.

I truthfully say that the world has not deceived you but you have had yourself deceived by it. The world had opened to you the curtains and divulged to you (everything) equally. And in all that it foretold you about the troubles befalling your bodies and the decay in your power, it has been too true and faithful in promise, and did not speak a lie to you or deceive you.

There are many who advise you about it but they are blamed, and speak the truth about it but they are opposed. If you understand the world by means of dilapidated houses and forlorn abodes, then with your good understanding and far reaching power of drawing lessons you will find it like one who is kind over you and cautious about you. It is good abode for him who does not like it as an abode, and a good place of stay for him who does not regard it a permanent home for stay. Only those who run away from this world today will be regarded virtuous tomorrow.

وَحَقًّا أَقُولُ! مَا الدُّنْيَا غَرَّتْكَ، وَلَكِنْ بِهَا اغْتَرَرْتَ، وَلَقَدْ كَاشَفْتُكَ الْعِظَاتِ، وَأَذَنْتَكَ عَلَى سَوَاءٍ، وَلَهِيَ بِمَا تَعِدُّكَ مِنْ نُزُولِ
الْبَلَاءِ بِجِسْمِكَ، وَالنَّقْصِ فِي قُوَّتِكَ، أَصْدَقُ وَأَوْفَى مِنْ أَنْ تَكْذِبَكَ، أَوْ تَغُرَّكَ، وَلَرُبَّ نَاصِحٍ لَهَا عِنْدَكَ مُتَّهَمٌ، وَصَادِقٌ مِنْ
خَبَرِهَا مُكَذَّبٌ، وَلَنْ تَعْرِفْتَهَا فِي الدِّيارِ الْخَاوِيَةِ، وَالرُّبُوعِ الْخَالِيَةِ، لَتَجِدَنَّهَا مِنْ حُسْنِ تَذَكُّيرِكَ، وَبَلَاغِ مَوْعِظَتِكَ، بِمَحَلَّةِ
الشَّفِيقِ عَلَيْكَ، وَالشَّحِيحِ بِكَ! وَلَنِعَمَ دَارٌ مَنْ لَمْ يَرْضَ بِهَا دَارًا، وَمَحَلٌّ مَنْ لَمْ يُوطِّنْهَا مَحَلًّا! وَإِنَّ السُّعْدَاءَ بِالدُّنْيَا غَدًا
هُمُ الْهَارِبُونَ مِنْهَا الْيَوْمَ.

When the earthquake occurs, the Day of Resurrection approaches with all its severities, the people of every worshipping place cling to it, all the devotees cling to the object of their devotion and all the followers cling to their leader. Then on that day even the opening of an eye in the air and the sound of a footstep on the ground will be assigned its due through His Justice and His Equity. On that day many an argument will prove void and a contention for excuses will stand rejected.

إِذَا رَجَفَتِ الرَّاجِفَةُ، وَحَقَّتْ بِجَلَائِلِهَا الْقِيَامَةُ، وَلَحِقَ بِكُلِّ مَنْسَكٍ أَهْلُهُ، وَبِكُلِّ مَعْبُودٍ عِبَدَتُهُ، وَبِكُلِّ مُطَاعٍ أَهْلُ طَاعَتِهِ،
فَلَمْ يُجْزَ فِي عَدْلِهِ وَقِسْطِهِ يَوْمَئِذٍ خَرَقُ بَصَرٍ فِي الْهَوَاءِ، وَلَا هَمْسٌ قَدَمٍ فِي الْأَرْضِ إِلَّا بِحَقِّهِ، فَكَمْ حُجَّةٌ يَوْمَ ذَلِكَ
!دَاحِضَةٌ، وَعَلَائِقُ عُذْرٍ مُنْقَطِعَةٌ

Therefore, you should now adopt for yourself the course with which your excuse may hold good and your plea may be proved. Take from the transient things of this world that which will stay for you (in the next world), provide for your journey, keep (your) gaze on the brightness of deliverance and keep ready the saddles (for setting off).

فَتَحَرَّ مِنْ أَمْرِكَ مَا يَقُومُ بِهِ عُذْرُكَ، وَتَثَبَّتْ بِهِ حُجَّتُكَ، وَخُذْ مَا يَبْقَى لَكَ مِمَّا لَا تَبْقَى لَهُ، وَتَيَسَّرْ لِسَفَرِكَ، وَشِمَّ بَرَقِ
النَّجَاةِ، وَارْحَلْ مَطَايَا التَّشْمِيرِ.

[Alternative Sources for Sermon 222](#)

(1) Al-Yamani, *al-Taraz*, II, 272;

(2) al-'Amidi, *Ghurar*, 232.

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