

Sermon 38: Doubt is called doubt because ...

About naming of doubt as such and disparagement of those in doubt

(ومن خطبة له (عليه السلام

وفيها علة تسمية الشبهة شبهة، ثم بيان حال الناس فيها

Doubt is named doubt (*al-shubhah*) because it resembles truth. As for lovers of Allah, their conviction serves them as light and the direction of the right path (itself) serves as their guide; while the enemies of Allah, in time of doubt call to misguidance in the darkness of doubt and their guide is blindness (of intelligence). One who fears death cannot escape it nor can one who loves eternal life secure it.

وَأِنَّمَا سُمِّيَتِ الشُّبْهَةُ شُبْهَةً لِأَنَّهَا تُشَبِّهُ الْحَقَّ، فَأَمَّا أَوْلِيَاءُ اللَّهِ فَضِيَاؤُهُمْ فِيهَا الْيَقِينُ، وَدَلِيلُهُمْ سَمْتُ الْهُدَى وَأَمَّا أَعْدَاءُ اللَّهِ فَدُعَاؤُهُمُ الضَّلَالُ، وَدَلِيلُهُمُ الْعَمَى، فَمَا يَنْجُو مِنَ الْمَوْتِ مَنْ خَافَهُ، وَلَا يُعْطَى الْبَقَاءَ مَنْ أَحَبَّهُ.

Alternative Sources for Sermon 38

(1) Al-'Amidi, *Ghurar*, 98;

(2) Ibn Talhah, *Matalib*, I, 170;

(3) al-Jahiz, *Rasa'il*, 125.

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